**RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM PRESENTER**

**PRESENTATION TIME: 4:00 PM – 4:10 PM**

**PRESENTER: Htet Htet Kyaw, MD**

**IMPORTANCE OF HIV SCREENING AND ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE IN IMMIGRANT POPULATION**

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**BACKGROUND**: Currently, no data were available for HIV status in immigrant Asian population, especially for Chinese. We hypothesized that intravenous drug users were not so common as other population and data for the prevalence of HIV in immigrants were lacking. This study was to look for the prevalence of HIV status in the immigrant population in relation to age, sex, race and mode of transmission.

**METHODS**: We analyzed 3-year data available at our office located in the Chinese predominant population area since 2015. Non-randomized cross-sectional study was used based on the 74 HIV-positive patients, 59.5% old and 40.5% new cases, all transferred from primary care physicians.

**RESULTS**: The prevalence of HIV infection in Chinese was 40.5%. The others were African American (18.9%), Spanish (17.6%), White (14.9%), Burmese (6.8%), and Korean (1.4%). The male infection rate (77.9%) was significantly higher than female (23.1%). Ninety-three percent was heterosexual and transmission mode was through sex (94.4%). Majority (84.5%) of the infected patients were asymptomatic. Two patients were elite controllers. Ninety-five percent of the patients were partner negative (serodiscordant). The age of patients ranged from 21 to 77 years; 58.5% are in the age group of 21-49 years. Thirty out of 74 were new patients, of which 60% were Chinese. Their viral load ranged from <20 to 4357830 copies/ml. Concerning with CD4 count, 23.3% of the patients had <200, 56.7% between 200-500 and 20% above 500 cells/µL. Syphilis was the highest coinfection (27%) with HIV followed by HBV (13.3%), HCV (6.7%), and TB (3.3%). All new patients received prompt treatment within 2-4 weeks. Eighty percent of the patients showed viral suppression (viral load <20 copies/ml) in 6 months and 90% in one year.

**CONCLUSIONS**: Our study highlighted the importance of primary care physicians in providing a routine HIV test, health education and primary care to the immigrant Asian population.

**CONTENT CATEGORY**: Epidemiology and Patient Care

**KEYWORDS**: *HIV, race, sex, viral load, CD4*