

## Viral load profiles in drug users with asymptomatic HIV infection and normal CD4 cell counts

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### Abstrak

Sejak tahun 2000 jumlah penderita HIV/AIDS di Indonesia meningkat tajam, terutama pada pecandu narkotika suntik. Terapi antiretroviral yang terbukti dapat menurunkan mortalitas dan meningkatkan kualitas hidup pasien, diberikan berdasarkan kondisi klinis, jumlah sel limfosit CD4 dan kadar virus dalam darah. Dalam penelitian ini dilakukan pemeriksaan kadar CD4 dan kadar virus pada 71 pasien HIV asimtomatik yang merupakan pecandu narkotika suntik untuk melihat apakah kadar CD4 berkorelasi dengan kadar virus HIV. Kadar CD4 diperiksa dengan metode imunofluoresensi indirek menggunakan antibodi monoklonal dan kadar virus menggunakan teknik PCR. Pemeriksaan hitung virus dilakukan pada 56 pasien yang mempunyai kadar CD4 lebih dari 200 sel/mm<sup>3</sup> ( $x = 473 + 180,6$ ). Sebanyak 30 orang (55,4%) mempunyai kadar virus dalam darah lebih dari 55.000 kopi/ml dan 35,7% kadar virusnya 5.000-55.000 kopi/ml. Korelasi antara kadar CD4 dengan kadar virus dalam darah memberi nilai  $r: 0,194$ . Disimpulkan bahwa pada pecandu narkotika kadar CD4 tidak berkorelasi dengan kadar HIV sehingga pemberian antiretroviral sebaiknya didasarkan pada kadar HIV dalam darah. (Med J Indones 2002; 11: 143-7)

*Since the year 2000 there has been a steep increased in the number of HIV/AIDS patients in Indonesia , coming mostly from intravenous drug users. Antiretroviral treatment has been proved to decrease mortality and increase quality of life of HIV/AIDS patients. The treatment is given according to clinical condition of the patients, number of CD4 and viral load. In this study, CD4 and viral load were examined in 71 asymptomatic HIV patients originated from injecting-drug users. CD4 counting was performed by indirect immunoflouresence method using monoclonal antibody, and viral load was tested using PCR technique. Among 56 patients who has the number of CD4 more than 200/mm<sup>3</sup>, 30 patients (55,4 %) has viral load more than 55,000 copies/ml and 35,7% has viral load 5,000-55,000 copies/ml. Correlation between the number of CD 4 and viral load gave the r value of 0,194. It is concluded that there is no association between the number of CD 4 and viral load in drug user HIV/AIDS patients. The treatment of HIV/AIDS for these patients should be given according to the viral load. (Med J Indones 2002; 11: 143-7)*