

## Seroprevalence of Toxoplasma gondii among HIV Patients in Jahrom, Southern Iran

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Toxoplasma gondii is an important opportunistic agent especially in immunocompromised hosts and can cause significant morbidity and mortality. Hence, detection and monitoring of anti-Toxoplasma antibodies are of a great interest in HIV-infected patients. A study on the prevalence of toxoplasmosis and associated risk factors was carried out among HIV-infected patients in Jahrom, southern Iran. The prevalence of anti-Toxoplasma IgG antibodies was 21.1% in HIV-infected patients by ELISA. PCR was performed on all of the samples, and 1 of the blood samples was positively detected. Among the HIV patients, anti-Toxoplasma IgG antibodies were significantly higher in age group of 30-39 years old ( $P = 0.05$ ). The seroprevalence of toxoplasmosis in patients with  $CD4(+) < 100$  cells/ $\mu$ l was 33.3% that was significantly higher than the other groups ( $P = 0.042$ ) with or without IgG antibodies. The  $CD4(+) count$  mean of seropositive patients was lower than that of seronegative patients. The seroprevalence of toxoplasmosis in patients with highly active antiretroviral therapy was significantly less than patients without therapy ( $P = 0.02$ ). In conclusion, this study showed low seroprevalence of latent toxoplasmosis among HIV-infected patients in the region and confirmed the need for intensifying prevention efforts among this high-risk population and also the risk of toxoplasmosis reactivation which could be important among this population

**Keywords:** Seroprevalence, Toxoplasma, gondii, HIV