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## **AZITHROMYCIN: AN EFFECTIVE TREATMENT FOR CRYPTOSPORIDIUM GASTRODUODENITIS IN AN ADOLESCENT WITH AIDS**

**E.G. Martinez Iriart**

*Department of Pediatrics, Children Hospital of Buenos Aires, Argentina  
doctor\_emi@hotmail.com*

**Objective:** To describe the clinical features and outcome of cryptosporidium GD treated with azithromycin in a male adolescent of 12 years with AIDS.

**Methods:** A male adolescent of 12 years began with abdominal pain and vomiting 6 weeks before his admission to hospital. Her mother had died 9 months before as a consequence of AIDS and his father is a HIV + patient. The patient had not high-risk behaviour for AIDS.

Physical examination at admission revealed a severely malnourished adolescent (loss of weight of 30%), with loss of appetite and clinical deterioration. He suffered sporadic vomiting and abdominal pain in epigastric area. AIDS (C3) was diagnosed then by Elisa and Western-Blot methods. % CD4 cells: 2 - % CD3:56 - %CD8:51.

Upper gastrointestinal radiologic studies revealed hypertrophy of gastric and duodenal mucous membrane. Biopsy of gastroduodenal tissues: acute inflammation.

Cryptosporidium was recovered from bowel fluid specimen.

A simple course of 30 days of azithromycin (10mg/kg/d) was completed and anti-retroviral therapy was initiated.

**Results:** After 5 days on therapy the patient became asymptomatic, and the improvement was notorious between the 2nd and 3rd week. The patient was stable 2 months later.

**Conclusions:** 1. Vertical transmission of HIV may be discovered in adolescent age.

2. Cryptosporidium, strongly associated with diarrhea and abdominal pain in AIDS, may also produce severe inflammation of gastroduodenal mucous membrane.

3. Azithromycin (10mg/k/d) is useful for cryptosporidium gastroduodenitis treatment.

