

Abstract

The HIV seroconversion stage, in which antibodies are forming after acquiring the infection, shows the early stage of HIV. The clinical presentation of this stage of HIV infection is often non-specific commonly presents as febrile illness mimicking simple viral infection.

A 37 year old male presented with excessive tearing from eyes and diagnosed with history of bilateral facial nerve palsy. His CD4 T lymphocyte count was quantified as 370/ μ L and the retroviral load was 210,000 copies/ml. His bilateral facial palsy made complete recovery in approximately 6 weeks with retroviral treatment.

Facial palsy may occur as an initial clinical manifestation during the seroconversion phase of HIV infection which may assist in early diagnosis. Early treatment for HIV infection will prevent certain complications. Therefore it is important to consider acute HIV infection as a differential diagnosis for isolated unilateral or bilateral lower motor type facial nerve palsy during its work up.

Key words

Acute HIV infection, Seroconversion, Bilateral facial nerve palsy