Fungal infections have been increasingly recognized as culprits of serious invasive diseases. A literature search was done for demographics on Guatemala's National Institute of Health to retrieve the number of people living in Guatemala with its gender and age distribution and from the UNGASS country progress report estimated the number of HIV cases with incidence rates; and for reports on fungal infections in Guatemala the Public Health Department report on year morbidity and scientific papers reporting on fungal infections in Guatemala and prevalence in other populations.

Methods

For disseminated histoplasmosis, cryptococcal meningitis and PCP we estimated the number of cases based on prevalence found at the time of HIV infection diagnosis in an urban clinic in Guatemala and the estimated number of people living with HIV according to the UNGASS Progress Report. For esophageal candidiasis, the expected cases were 20% of those HIV patients not receiving ARV therapy and an additional 5% of those on ARV therapy.

For ABP, we calculated the total cases of asthma based on a prevalence of 2.42% in the population, and that of ABP on asthmatics of 2.5%. For those with severe asthma with sensitization, of those with asthma assuming 6% would be severe, and a prevalence of 2% of fungal sensitization among them 34% of the total number of cases was obtained.

Post TB Chronic Pulmonary Aspergillosis cases were obtained with a 5 year prevalence of TB, the proportion of those developing cavitary, and of those the proportion developing chronic aspergillosis.

For recurrent candida vaginitis the number of cases was based on a 5% expected prevalence on women aged 15 to 50 years old.

Conclusions

- There is under reporting of fungal infections in Guatemala due to the lack of appropriate resources and knowledge on the topic.
- Even though fungal opportunistic infections are correctly diagnosed in the HIV population, these are not reported by the Public Health Department.
- The impact of mycotic infections in Guatemala remains unrecognized.
- A national reference laboratory is needed to educate and introduce new diagnostic techniques, while promoting awareness of the importance of serious fungal infections.
- There is a need to improve the national reporting system to determine the impact of serious fungal infections among HIV and general population.

References

2. Asociación de Salud Integral, Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala and The University of Manchester in association with the LIFE program at www.life-worldwide.org