



Demographic characteristics and risk factors in Turkish patients with anogenital warts



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Summary Anogenital warts (AGW) are one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases worldwide. The determination of groups vulnerable to contracting anogenital warts (AGW) leads to the development of policies for disease control and of prevention programs. The aim of our study was to investigate the demographical features and risk factors of Turkish patients with AGW.

This study included 200 patients with AGW and 200 healthy individuals as a control group. The age, gender, education and marital status, age of first sexual intercourse, number of sexual partners, sexual orientation, and smoking status were recorded in both groups.

In this study, 88% of the patients were male, and 12% were female. The mean age of the patients was 35.21 ± 0.77 years, and the majority of patients were below 35 years old (63%). Furthermore, 46.0% of the patients were educated at the university level, and 33.5% had graduated high school. No significant differences were found based on sexual orientation or condoms between the patient and control groups. In the patient group, the mean age of first sexual intercourse was significantly earlier, and the number of single individuals and sexual partners were significantly higher. Also, 61% of the patients were current smokers, which was significantly higher than the control group. The duration of smoking and the duration of AGW were found to be correlated. All patients were tested for anti-HIV antibodies, and only one patient was found to be infected.

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AGW were more common in patients younger than 35 years old, among men, and among those who had graduated from high school or university. Early age of first sexual intercourse, a high number of sexual partners, being single, and smoking were also risk factors for the development of anogenital warts.

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Introduction

Anogenital warts (AGW) are a common, highly infectious disease caused by human papilloma virus (HPV). The high recurrence rate of AGW contributes to direct medical costs, productivity loss and increased psychosocial impact [1].

Like all sexually transmitted diseases, AGW have an important impact on the health of society. Being aware of possible risk factors leads to the use of efficient protection measures and lowers the cost of treatment.

Several studies have shown that the lifetime number of sexual partners and the frequency of sex or other intimate skin-to-skin contact increase the chance of being infected with HPV. In addition, other risk factors have been reported to affect AGW development, including smoking and immunodeficiency [2].

There have been no controlled studies investigating the risk factors in patients with AGW in Turkey. We aimed to investigate patient demographics and risk factors, including smoking, which is the most common addictive behavior in Turkey in patients with AGW. The identification of important risk groups and risk behaviors associated with AGW in our country would help to take preventive measures and control the disease.

Materials and methods

This study included 200 patients with AGW who were 18 years of age or older and who were admitted to our outpatient clinic between January 2014 and April 2015. The control group included 200 individuals of matching age and gender who were admitted to our outpatient clinic with complaints other than AGW or other sexually transmitted diseases during the same period. The study was approved by the ethical committee of our

hospital, and informed consent was obtained from the patient and the control groups.

Dermatological and physical examinations of the patients and controls were performed. Information regarding age, gender, education and marital status, age of first sexual intercourse, number of sexual partners, use of condoms, sexual orientation, and anal intercourse were asked by the physician and recorded for both the patient and the control groups. In addition, the patients and controls were asked if they were current smokers, and the duration of smoking was noted. The duration and localization of AGW were recorded for members of the patient group.

Enzyme immunoassay (EIA) was used to detect human immunodeficiency virus antibody (anti-HIV) in the patient group.

Statistical analysis

Data analysis was performed using SPSS 15.0 software (Chicago, IL, USA). Quantitative data are given as the mean \pm standard deviation, and qualitative variables are presented as frequency distributions and percentages. Chi-square and Fisher tests were used for statistical analysis, and a p value < 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Multivariate analysis was performed for variables found to be statistically significant in univariate analysis.

Results

The patient group included 200 patients with AGW; 176 (88%) were male, and 24 (12%) were female. The control group included 200 individuals; 187 (93.5%) were male and 13 (6.5%) were female. There was no significant difference between the genders of the patient and control groups.

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