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III International Conference on Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

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MALNUTRITION AND HIV ANTIBODY PREVALENCE IN
THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

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HIV antibody prevalence has been studied simultaneously in mothers and their malnourished children, in a rural area of the Central African Republic (CAR). Children were selected on the basis of their nutritional status i.e. moderate protein energy malnutrition (PEM), kwashiorkor or marasmus. The results obtained from rural area have been compared to those previously obtained in an urban pediatric population as well as those recorded in the general population of the CAR.

Elisa was used for sera screening, while Western Blot allowed us to confirm the presence of anti HIV 1 antibodies when reacting with either GP110, GP41 or both.

Anti HIV 1 as well as HIV 2 antibodies are absent in the healthy control group of children of less than 15 years, while they are found in 12.3% of the malnourished children of the urban area as compared to 3.9% in the rural area.

These differences do not seem to be due only to environmental factors but more likely to the way of life of the mothers of sick children under investigation.

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