

## ABSTRACT

### MEDICATION ADHERENCE RELATED TO LIPODYSTROPHIC SYMPTOMATOLOGY IN PERSONS WITH HIV/AIDS

The purpose of this study, via secondary analysis, was to determine the relationships among lipodystrophic symptoms, the use of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM), medication adherence to antiretroviral therapy, and health-related quality of life in persons with HIV/AIDS. A descriptive design was used to obtain information from 93 HIV-infected subjects in an outpatient clinic in central California. Participants completed a Sociodemographic Data Form, Morisky Medication Adherence Scale, and Living with HIV/AIDS Scale. Qualitative data were obtained through the use of open-ended questions, exploring self-reported lipodystrophy-associated symptomatology, CAM therapy use and perceived effectiveness. The major findings derived from this study were that despite numerous reports of lipodystrophic symptoms, respondents noted adherence to HIV medication regimens. There were positive correlations among subjects' ages and comorbidities, and numbers of years since diagnoses with HIV disease. There were relationships among comorbidities and numbers of years of positivity, and adherence to HIV medication regimens.

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May 2003