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**EFFECT OF CHRONIC SYSTEMIC USE OF TRIMETHOPRIM-SULFAMETHOXAZOLE IN THE CONJUNCTIVAL BACTERIAL FLORA OF HIV- INFECTED PATIENTS**

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**PURPOSE :** To investigate the effect of orally administered Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMZ) on the prevalence, species distribution and resistance of the aerobic ocular conjunctival bacterial flora in HIV-infected adults under highly active antiretroviral therapies (HAART). **DESIGN :** Cross-sectional study, with descriptive and analytic components. **METHODS :** Samples from the inferior conjunctival fornix of consecutive patients were collected and directly placed onto culture medias. Microorganisms were identified and antibiotic susceptibility was tested to each bacteria. **RESULTS :** Samples of sixty eyes were collected from March to August 2003. Patients were divided regarding the use of TMP-SMZ (study group) or not (control group). Negative cultures were found in 17 (56,7%) eyes of the study group, and in 10 (33%) of the control group ( $p= 0.036$ ). All the Staphylococcus coagulase-negative isolates in the TMP-SMZ group were resistant to this drug, whereas 50% of the control group presented such characteristic ( $p=0.025$ ). On the study group all bacterias (100%) were resistant to TMP-SMZ, and only 47% of the microorganisms in the control group. Overall, antimicrobial resistance was uncommon for others antibiotics tested in both groups.