

## **Methods**

### *Study Design and Setting*

We conducted a retrospective cross-sectional study. The data analyzed concerned patients seen from January 2001 to December 2016 at the HIV day care unit of the Central Hospital of Yaoundé, Cameroon. This unit, which has been well described elsewhere [12, 13], is specialized in HIV care, with a cohort of more than 40,000 patients coming from Yaoundé and its surroundings.

### *Study Participants*

The subjects were known HIV-infected patients followed up at the study site and diagnosed with KS during the study period whose files contained at least 80% of the desired information. The diagnosis was based on the clinical description (brownish or purplish macules, patches, plaques, and nodules located extensively on the skin or mucosa, sometimes associated with edema) [9] and histological characteristics of KS (thin-walled endovascular formation, extravasated red cells, inflammatory lymphocytes, and proliferating spindle cells) [10]. Patients were identified throughout the study period and included if they fulfilled our inclusion criteria. Files missing the results of histological examination were not considered in our analyses. The minimal sample size was estimated at 135 patients.

### *Data Collection*

We used a standardized data collection form to obtain information on sociodemographic characteristics (age, sex, ethnic origin, marital status, and profession), clinical characteristics (localization and aspects of lesions), and biological parameters (type of HIV infection as well as CD4 counts at the time of KS diagnosis). The information was gathered from the patients' electronic and physical medical files archived at the study site.

### *Statistical Methods*

The data were coded and entered using Microsoft Excel 2010, and subsequently analyzed with SPSS version 23 (SPSS IBM Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). The results are presented as frequencies (percentages) for qualitative variables, and as means  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD) or medians (interquartile range [IQR]) for quantitative variables where indicated. Comparisons of qualitative variables used the  $\chi^2$  test or Fisher's exact test, and the Student  $t$  test or nonparametric equivalents served for comparisons of quantitative variables where appropriate. Statistical significance was set at a  $p$  value  $<0.05$ .

### *Ethical Considerations*

This study was granted ethical clearance by the Ethics Review Board of the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences of the University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon. In addition, we received administrative authorization from the director of the Central Hospital of Yaoundé as well as from the head of the HIV day care unit. Given that the study was retrospective, we were unable to obtain the patients' consent; nevertheless, this was waived by the ethics review board. The anonymity of the patients and the confidentiality of the information gathered were respected.