Oral candidiasis (OC) is among the most common opportunistic infections in HIV-infected individuals. Nystatin oral suspension (NYS) is the main antifungal used to treat OC in HIV-infected patients. A randomised trial comparing the safety and efficacy of topical gentian violet (GV) to that of oral NYS suspension (enrollment target = 494 patients) was conducted. This trial was stopped at 221 patients due to excess mortality unrelated to study medications.

**Methods**: Patients were randomized in a 1:1 ratio to receive GV or NYS. The primary endpoint was to compare the safety and efficacy of topical GV to that of oral NYS suspension (enrollment target = 494 patients). Costs for GV included drug acquisition costs as well as materials and labor costs for drug preparation. Costs for NYS included drug acquisition costs. Costs for all components were obtained directly from individual pharmacies. The study was halted due to the Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) recommendations because of their concerns for excessive mortality unrelated to study medications. The authors concluded that GV is as effective as NYS in the treatment of OC in HIV-infected patients and may provide an inexpensive alternative in RLS countries.

**Conclusions**: GV is as effective as NYS in the treatment of OC in HIV-infected patients and may provide an inexpensive alternative in RLS countries. The authors highlighted the need for further research to confirm these findings.

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