

Table 1. Possible mechanisms of HPA axis derangement in HIV infection

Adrenal gland

- Direct HIV infection
 - Infectious adrenalitis (CMV, Mycobacterium, Cryptococcus, Histoplasmosis, Pneumocystis carinii)
 - Neoplastic infiltration (Kaposi's sarcoma, Lymphoma, Adrenocortical carcinoma)
 - Adrenal hemorrhage
 - Drugs (ketoconazole, rifampin, phenytoin)
 - Autoimmune
 - Reversible inhibitory cytokine (TNF- α) effect
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Hypothalamic-pituitary unit

- Pituitary infection
 - Cytokine related HPA axis abnormalities
 - Drugs (glucocorticoids, megestrol acetate)
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