

Education of Medical experts. However, the level of knowledge of Truvada PreP was proportional to their Education. Conclusion The survey showed that more information on Truvada PreP usage should be disseminated since its usage still remains a myth to most Kenyans (there is still a strong believe that AIDS as no cure). Therefore, for a successful Truvada usage depends on Opinion leaders, health Professionals and researchers to correct the current misconceptions existing about Truvada PreP in their communities

P5.09 AWARENESS OF HIV/AIDS AND STI'S AMONG VISUALLY IMPAIRED FEMALE SEX WORKERS (VIFSWS) IN ELDORET TOWNSHIP, KENYA

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Introduction In the recent past, it has been a notion that VIFSWs have a greater risk of acquiring HIV due to their Physical challenge they face. However, according to a report from UNAIDS which says that women have a greater risk of becoming infected than men if they are unprotected. The aim of the study is to analyse the level of awareness about HIV/AIDS/STIs among VIFSWs from their Brothels in Eldoret Township, Kenya.

Methods A descriptive study was conducted where Qualitative methods were used. In depth Interviews was conducted on 60 VIFSWs and out of those 60, a strata of 6 was formed. The data was then put on codes and later interpreted.

Results According to the results, it was found out that 99% of the respondents in the study had knowledge on HIV/AIDS and STIs. However, the majority of the respondents faced ill treatment by their male clients due to their physical challenge they face. Also they faced stigma and discrimination from members of Public, on availability of user friendly health care services was also another challenge. They also lacked Testing and Counselling services from government Institutions.

Conclusion According to data obtained from the field, it suggests that the level of awareness of HIV/AIDS/STIs is high among the VIFSWs. However, there is an urgent need to conduct regular Counselling and Testing since they have less knowledge on importance of Counselling and Testing and early use of PeP in case of an exposure or early use of Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART).

P5.10 INHIBITORY EFFECT OF CHLORHEXIDINE ANTISEPTIC MOUTHWASH AGAINST *NEISSERIA GONORRHOEAE*? AN IN-VITRO STUDY

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Introduction Studies have found that oral sex plays a major role in the transmission of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (NG) in men who have sex with men (MSM) populations. We aimed to establish *in vitro* the concentration and exposure time of Chlorhexidine mouthwash (Corsodyl®) that can inhibit the growth of NG to less than 102 Colony Forming Units (CFU) per ml.

Method Four NG strains isolated from pharyngeal specimens were selected for this exercise. Three were isolated from women, and all four were susceptible to ceftriaxone, cefixime, and spectinomycin, three were less susceptible (intermediate) to azithromycin and two were resistant to ciprofloxacin. None of the strains produced penicillinase. The antibiotic susceptibility was obtained using the agar dilution method and European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing breakpoints were used. Of each of the isolates a suspension of approximate 108 CFU/ml (0.5Mc Farland) was prepared in Phosphate-Buffered Saline (PBS)(positive control) and in serial dilutions of Chlorhexidine in PBS- 0.2%, 0.1% and 0.05%. Following 30 and 60 s of exposure at ambient temperature a volume of 10 µl of each of the suspensions was plated onto BBLTM Columbia blood agar (5% horse blood) and incubated for 48 hours (5%-7% CO₂, 35±2°C). The colony growth was recorded and the number of CFU was counted, if appropriate. All experiments were conducted in triplicate.

Results Abundant growth was obtained with all PBS control suspensions. Zero CFU/ml were retrieved for all experiments using 0.2% chlorhexidine and 60 s of contact time. In only one of the 12 experiments using 0.2% chlorhexidine and 30 s of contact time a NG growth of 100 CFU/ml was obtained. Lower concentrations of chlorhexidine inhibited the growth of NG but to a lesser degree than 0.2%. The longer contact time inhibited the growth more frequently compared to the 30 s of contact time.

Conclusion The efficacy of the inexpensive and widely available 0.2% chlorhexidine mouthwash in preventing or treating pharyngeal NG merits consideration in clinical trials.

P5.11 ASSOCIATION OF HUMAN MANNOSE RECEPTOR(HMR) IN SEXUAL TRANSMISSION AND PATHOGENESIS HIV SUBTYPE C VIRUS IN SERODISCORDANTS COUPLES

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Introduction HIV binds specifically to human Mannose Receptor (hMR) on vaginal epithelial cells which are devoid of conventional CD4 receptor. HIV binding to hMR on vaginal epithelial cells induces the production of Matrix Metalloproteinase 9 (MMP9) leading to degradation of extracellular matrix which may increase the risk of sexual transmission of HIV.

Methods PCR amplification of DNA from PBMCs of the sero-discordant females for CCR5 gene flanking for CCR5-delta 32 region. Translated amino acid sequence of C2-V3 region of env gene of HIV PBMCs and sperm of the infected male partners of the Serodiscordant couples was determined. The localization of hMR on vaginal epithelial cells of the seronegative females from general population and seronegative females from Serodiscordant couples was studied using FITC labelled antibodies to hMR (FITC AbhMR).

Results Translated amino acid sequence of C2-V3 region of env gene of HIV1C in PBMCs (n=9) and sperm (n=5) of the male partners showed the presence of distinct variants and the variation in PBMCs and sperm of serodiscordant males was almost similar to that of infected males from concordant couples. The Presence of hMR on 0%-11% of the vaginal epithelial cells of seronegative females (n=39) from serodiscordant couples and 90%-95% that of control group of females.