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We studied *C. trachomatis* (CT) serotype-specific antibodies in Finnish women between 1980's and 2000's. *C. trachomatis* seropositive women (1,169) were available from a subcohort (11,067) of the Finnish Maternity Cohort representing the 1980's (N = 480) and 2000's (N = 331) for serotype specific classification by microimmuno-fluorescence test. Serotype distributions were comparable in the 1980's and 2000's, G, E and J being the most prevalent. Serotype D peaked in the 1990's. The overall serotype profile changed first between 1980's and 1990's but changed back in the 2000's. The rates of women with antibodies against two or more serotypes increased in the 1990's, but then decreased again. In conclusion, we analysed the rates and distributions of CT serotype-specific antibodies from the 1980's to 2000's in fertile-aged female population in Finland. We found that CT serotype distributions varied considerably over time.

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KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS FROM UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL OF OUAGADOUGOU (BURKINA FASO) FACE TO ACCIDENTAL BLOOD EXPOSURE (ABE) AND BIOLOGICAL FLUIDS IN CAREGIVING FACILITIES

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Objective Accidental blood exposure (ABE) is defined as "any accidental exposure to blood or to a biological fluid contaminated by blood, including a cutaneous injury during an incision or injection, or a projection on mucosa or on an injured skin". we aimed to evaluate the knowledge, attitudes and practises of healthcare workers in one of West Africa country national referral hospital (Yalgado Ouédraogo University Hospital) face to ABE.

Methods A descriptive cross-sectional and analytical study was conducted, from May to July 2009, on all healthcare workers (medical, paramedical and support staff) working for at least a year in this hospital university. A self and anonymous questionnaire was used to gather the information. The knowledge assessment was made using a digital scale. Results 462 healthcare workers responded to the questionnaire (response rate: 51.3%). They composed of 60 physicians (12.9%), 313 paramedics (67.7%) and 89 support officers (19.2%). The exact definition of an ABE was known from 255 healthcare workers (55.2%) and 375 (81.2%) were aware of the principles of universal precautions. Medical staff better defined the ABE than the other healthcare workers (p = 0.00). 133 healthcare workers (29.4%) were at least once a victim of an ABE, of which 84 (61.3%) had not reported their ABE. Ignorance of the support procedures was in 26.8% of cases the main cause of no report. The risk of contamination after ABE had not been assessed in 60.3% of cases. Only 69.7% of the healthcare workers were aware that HIV is a potentially transmissible infectious agent during an ABE. Protective equipment was not always available and not constantly used.

Conclusion The ABE knowledge of these referral hospital health-care workers is not satisfactory. Appropriate communication and awareness means on the risks associated with the ABE should be further developed in healthcare settings.

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TOO BAD! SINGLE MOLECULE ANTIRETROVIRAL DRUGS MAY NOT BE THE MAGIC BULLET

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Background Adherence to Antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) poses a challenge for an effective Antiretroviral Therapy in Ghana. The introduction of single molecule ARVs regime was seen as an antidote to non-adherence among HIV patients on treatment. This study was conducted among ARVs experienced patients, who were about to be switched onto single molecules, to determine their perception on the new treatment regime.

Methods 1681 HIV positive patients from Suntreso STI/HIV Clinic in Kumasi, who have been on treatment for more than 12 months and consented to participate in this cross sectional study, were interviewed using structured pretexted questionnaire prior to the commencement of the new single molecule ARVs treatment regime. Data was entered and analysed using SPSS version 16.

Results Whereas 60.9% (1023/1681) find the present dose regime cumbersome, 39.1% (657/1681) prefer the multiple dose regime. 42.2% (709) of respondents have some reservations about single dose regime whilst 24.6% (413) prefer it with 33.3%(559) being indifferent. Reasons for the reservation included; 'Side effect may be too serious' (48.3%, 342/709), 'Virus too powerful for a single molecule' (30.2%, 214/709), 'Attempts to deprive us of drugs and facilitate our death' (13.8%, 92/709) and 'Cost of drugs will be expensive in future for a combine drugs' (7.7%, 55/709).

Conclusion Although majority of patients find the multiple dose regimes cumbersome, they are sceptical about the use of the single molecule regime. The new regime may result in overdosing if they find it inadequate to provide the needed protection. The fear of serious adverse reaction from combination of ARVs compared with separate drugs, may scare them from taking the treatment. Intensive adherence counselling taking care of the above concerns is essential before patients are switch onto the single molecule ARV regime

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BENEFITS, CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED IN IMPLEMENTING AN HIV MEDICATION DELIVERY SCHEME

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Introduction The HIV department of Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust UK, care for 370 patients of which 80% are taking antiretroviral therapy(ART).

Monthly ART spend is approximately £200,000. A proposal for ART home delivery was made by the HIV multidisciplinary team(MDT) and local procurement pharmacists. The desired outcome being patient convenience, whilst making financial savings for the Trust in view of 0% value added tax for delivered medication.

Methods A delivery scheme began in June 2011. 60% of patients on ART chose to enter it. 3 months later, however, failed deliveries were reported. This continued despite efforts to rectify issues with the delivery provider.

In November 2011, an alternative provider, with greater experience in ART, was recruited. Now, 15 months later, the scheme continues successfully, with 55% of patients on ART entered.

Outcomes: Initial patient survey identified potential concerns regarding entering the scheme - firstly, reliability of timing of medication delivery and secondly, protection of patient identifiable information.

The convenience of not waiting for ART to be dispensed in the hospital pharmacy is a key patient reported benefit. From the hospital perspective, home delivery is resulting in savings of £9300 per month. Additionally, there is less pharmacy storage space consumption.

Additional administration time consumption, however, is noted in 'trouble-shooting' and coordinating the process.