3.0% (1.1%–7.8%) and 8.7% (6.1%–12.3%), respectively (p=0.01). None of the 12 maternal and 51 infant deaths (including two second-born infants) were attributed to antiretrovirals. The cumulative HIV-transmission or death rate at 24 mo was 15.7% (95% CI 12.7%–19.4%).

Conclusion This trial shows that a maternal triple-antiretroviral regimen from late pregnancy through 6 months of breastfeeding for PMTCT is safe and feasible in a resource-limited setting. These findings are consistent with those from other trials using maternal triple-antiretroviral regimens during breastfeeding in comparable settings.

P3.174 PREVENTION OF HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS BREASTMILK TRANSMISSION WITH COPPER OXIDE: PROOF-OF-CONCEPT STUDY

1Njeri Mbugua, 2Oygii Julius Otieno, 1Kenya Medical Research Institute/Nairobi University/ Kenyatta Hospital/Kenya Women With HIV/AIDS, Nairobi, Kenya; 2Nairobi University, Kenya, Kenya

Introduction Human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) transmission through breastmilk is the chief modality through which HIV-1 is transmitted from HIV-1-infected mothers to their babies in developing countries, where alternative feeding options lack practical feasibility. The development of an approach to inactivate the HIV-1 virions ingested by an infant on a daily basis through breastmilk is thus of critical importance.

Methods Copper has potent virucidal properties. Stoichiometric concentrations of copper ions inactivate the HIV-1 protease, which is essential for viral replication. Cell-free and cell-associated HIV-1 infectivity is inhibited when the virus is exposed to copper oxide in a dose-dependent manner. Passage of high titers of a wide range of HIV-1 isolates, spiked in culture medium, through filters containing copper oxide powder resulted in their deactivation.

Results In the current study, we demonstrate that the infectivity of three different HIV-1 isolates, spiked in breastmilk obtained from HIV-1-seronegative donors, or of wild-type isolates found in breastmilk obtained from HIV-1-seropositive donors, is drastically reduced (>98%) when exposed to copper oxide.

Conclusion This study is proof of concept that copper oxide is efficacious against HIV-1 found in breastmilk and serves as the basis for further research aimed at determining the possible effects that copper may have on the nutritional and anti-infective properties of breastmilk. Furthermore, this supports the continuing study of the feasibility of developing a filtering device, such as an “at-the-breast” disposable shield that can be used discreetly and safely by HIV-1-infected mothers during breastfeeding.

P3.175 EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF BROADLY NEUTRALISING ANTIBODIES IN HIV-INFECTED INFANTS

1Njeri Mbugua, 2Elizabeth Ann Bukusi, 3Asunta Wagura, 4Elizabeth Njugi, 1Kenya Medical Research Institute/Nairobi University/ Kenyatta Hospital/Kenya Women With HIV/AIDS, Nairobi, Kenya; 2Kenya Medical Research Institute/Nairobi University, Nairobi, Kenya; 3Kenya Network of Women Living With HIV/AIDS, Nairobi, Kenya; 4Nairobi University, Nairobi, Kenya

Introduction We evaluated predictors of consistent condom use among female sex workers (FSWs), a core group for controlling the spread of HIV.

Methods In an analysis of data collected in 2004–2005 from 140 Kenyan FSWs who completed questionnaires administered during a baseline study visit and three bimonthly follow-up visits, we used a case-crossover design to identify predictors of consistent condom use during all coital acts in the preceding 2 weeks, overall and by partner type.

Results Participants (n=140) completed the baseline visit and 390 bimonthly follow-up visits. Alcohol use during sex was negatively associated with consistent condom use with helping partners (defined as regular sex partners to whom the woman could go for help or support if needed) (adjusted odds ratio [AOR], 2.6, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.0–6.5) but not associated with condom use with other partners. Coital frequency was associated with condom use with other partners only. Women who reported 1–5 (AOR 11.0, 95% CI 4.3–28.3) or 6–9 recent coital acts (AOR 3.8, 95% CI 1.7–8.8) with other partners were more likely to report consistent condom use with those partners than were women who reported ≥10 acts. Having a recent partner delay payment was inversely associated with consistent condom use with helping, other, or all partners.

Conclusion Correlates of consistent condom use differed by partner type. By using a case-crossover design, we were able to identify potentially modifiable factors associated with consistent condom use by FSWs who used condoms consistently with a given partner type during some periods but not others.

P3.176 SERO-PREVALENCE OF SYPHILIS AMONG FEMALE SEX WORKERS IN MOROCCO

1H Ououchoud, 2C Ouainim, 1B Bellaji, 3A Hançali, 5Jennane, 2A Bennani, 2A Latifi, 1R Chard; 1National Institute of Hygiene Rabat, Rabat, Morocco; 2National AIDS Program Ministry of Health, Rabat, Morocco

Introduction Syphilis is a common but curable sexually transmitted infection (STI). Nevertheless the limited access to medical care among Female Sex Workers (FSWs) can reduce individual treatment, thereby indirectly facilitating transmission within the population. There is increased risk of HIV acquisition and transmission of HIV because of ulcerative syphilis. This study aimed to provide, for the first time using response driven sampling (RDS), baseline information on the prevalence and treatment rate of syphilis among FSWs in Morocco.

Methods This study was conducted from December 2011 to January 2012 in four Moroccan regions: Agadir, Rabat, Fez and Tangier. A total of 1447 FSWs participants were recruited using RDS. All participants completed an anonymous questionnaire on sex behavioural information and were tested for syphilis by using a combination of two tests; a non treponemal test (treponema pallidum haemmaglutination assay: TPHA).

Results Among 1447 FSWs (17.68%) were reactive for syphilis with 21.4% in Agadir, 18.8% in Fez, 13.9% in Rabat and 13.3% in Tangier. Only 25.54% of FSWs reported being
tested for HIV in the past 12 months and 4% ever been tested for HIV, 50.25% reported using a condom at last transactional sex.

**Conclusion** The prevalence of syphilis was high among female sex workers and majority of them were treated for syphilis. Achieving good treatment coverage therefore will help not only to reduce syphilis incidence but also HIV disease burden in the high risk population and general population since the relationship between syphilis and HIV is well established. This study has shown syphilis continues to be highly prevalent among female sex workers and targeted intervention programs need to focus on curable STI like syphilis.

**P3.177 IDENTIFICATION OF SUPEROXOL NEGATIVE NEISSERIA GONORRHOEAE ISOLATES OVER 25 YEARS IN ARGENTINA**

Oviedo Claudia, Gonzalez Melisa, Gianecini Ricardo, Cristaldo Paula, Gaspp-Ar, Galaza Patricia. Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Infecciosas (INE)-Arhs, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Gonococcal Antimicrobial Susceptibility Surveillance Program-Argentina (GASSP-Ar), Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Introduction** Isolation of Neisseria and other related microorganisms from genital and extra genital sites require the identification of clinically important isolates and represent a challenge in low-complexity clinical microbiology laboratories. A presumptive *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (Ng) identification includes the Superoxol test (Spx) among others. Ng produces levels of catalase activity that are stronger than others *Neisseria spp*. Spx is a simple and inexpensive test that uses 30% hydrogen peroxide as a reagent. Superoxol reaction with Ng is typically "explosive" compared to weaker reactions of other species. The objective is to report the finding of *N. gonorrhoeae* superoxol test negative over 25 years in Argentina.

**Methods** We studied 8047 isolates derived from the GASPP-Ar for susceptibility studies between 1990 and 2015. Presumptive identification of isolates was made on the colonies that developed in selective medium. All isolates were confirmed by carbohydrate utilisation and/or coagglutination with monoclonal antibodies and/or mass spectrophotometry (Bruker Daltonik). For Spx a positive result was defined as abundant production of bubbles occurring within two to three seconds of starting emulsification. A negative reaction was defined by weak or delayed bubbling after three seconds. Pulsed field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) was carried out using NheI enzyme.

**Results** Out of the total isolates studied, 99.9% (8038/8047) showed a positive Spx; however 9 isolates were Spx negative. These isolates came from 5 different regions of the country and have been appearing since 2010. They were characterised as serogroup WII/III with 3 different susceptibility patterns corresponding to three different non-related PFGE profiles.

**Conclusion** This work confirms the reliability of the Spx for the presumptive identification of Ng. Since several clinical laboratories in developing countries use only presumptive tests for Ng identification, it is important to alert about these atypical isolates circulating in our country. It is important to be aware of using complementary tests for identification.