

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

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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-1-INFECTED INFANTS

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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

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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, Fes 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 (venereal diseases research laboratory VDRL) and treponemal test (treponema pallidum haemmagglutination assay: TPHA).

Results Among 1447 FSWs (17.68%) were reactive for syphilis with 21.4% in Agadir, 18.8% in Fes, 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 GONORRHOEA* ISOLATES OVER 25 YEARS IN ARGENTINA

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Introduction Isolation of *Neisserias* 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, is important to alert about these atypical isolates circulating in our country. It is important to be aware of using complementary tests for identification.

P3.178 SYPHILIS IN PREGNANT WOMEN AND ELIMINATION OF CONGENITAL SYPHILIS IN BELARUS

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Introduction In Belarus the spread of syphilis (S) has been on the increase since 1988, and the incidence reached its peak in 1996 with 209.7 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. During the following years the incidence has reduced with 7.2 cases in 2015. In the years 1996–2012 all together 5147 pregnant women infected with S were registered in Belarus (8.49% from the general number of the women with S for this period – 60 604 cases). The aim of the present study is to report on pregnant women infected with C and on elimination of congenital syphilis (CS) in Belarus.

Methods The study was retrospective. The data were obtained from the patients' files from the Dermatovenereological Dispensary in the city of Minsk, the state capital of Belarus, and regional Dermatovenereological Dispensaries of Belarus.

Results Primary S was diagnosed in 13.1% of pregnant women with S, secondary S – 30.2%, latent early S – 55.8%, latent late S – 0.9%. Disease has been revealed in I trimester of pregnancy in 57.1% of patients, II trimester – 23.1%, III trimester – 17.2%, after delivery – 2.6%. 43.7% of women have made abortion after disease revealing. Among women giving birth to children with CS primary S was not diagnosed, secondary S – 26.7%, latent early S – 71.4%, seroresistant S – 1.9%. Reinfection was registered in 8.5% of patients. There are 127 children with CS registered in 1994–2015 in Belarus in total. Early CS with symptoms has been revealed in 24 (18.9%), early latent CS – in 103 (81.1%) of children. Cases of late CS have not been registered. 2 cases of CS have been registered in 1994, 1995–12, 1996–13, 1997–14, 1998–23, 1999–18, 2000–6, 2001–8, 2002–7, 2003–8, 2004–5, 2005–1, 2006–4, 2007–1, 2008–2, 2009–1, 2010–2 cases. Last five years cases of CS have not been registered in Belarus.

Conclusion Belarus has adequate system of control of S in pregnant women. In 2016 WHO certified the validation of elimination of CS as a public health problem in Belarus.

P3.179 OBSTETRICAL ASSISTANCE ON HIV-POSITIVE PREGNANCIES MAY REDUCE VERTICAL TRANSMISSION

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Introduction Assess seropositivity of HIV infection among pregnant women overseen by Hospital de Clínicas from Universidade Federal do Triângulo Mineiro (HC-UFTM). Describe their demographical and epidemiological profile, obstetrical and newborn data.

Methods Survey through the records of pregnant women from HC-UFTM spanning from 2013 to 2016, followed by medical record review and administration of a structured questionnaire on epidemiological, obstetrical and neonatal aspects from HIV-positive pregnancies.

Results From January 2013 to November 2016, there were 69 births from HIV-positive women. On demography, the maternal age varied from 16 to 40 years, with 26.8 years average; the majority, 53.6% were in common-law marriages and 59.42