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HIV positive pregnant women who receive less than two weeks of ART before delivery: why does it occur?

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Background

- Mother to child transmission:
  - Decline in MTCT since introduction of ART use during pregnancy
    - 20% in 1993 → 2% in 1998
  - Overall transmission in diagnosed women (in UK 2000-2006) – 1.2%
  - Transmission in women receiving >2/52 ART – 0.8%

1. Townsend et al., 2008. AIDS, 22, 973-81
Aims

• To explore circumstances of women receiving less than 2 weeks of ART prior to delivery
  o Demographic characteristics
  o Aspects of pregnancy

• To identify possible reasons for women receiving <2/52 ART and areas for potential improvement
Methods

- UK wide study
- Eligible women: NSHPC, <2/52 ART
- January 2005 – May 2010
- Excluded <34/40 and HIV-2 positive
- Questionnaires
- Descriptive analysis
- Data collected compared to data from NSHPC on women who received ≥2 weeks of ART
Results: Comparison with women with ≥2/52 ART

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>&lt;2/52 ART (n=103)</th>
<th>≥2/52 ART (n=4965)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age in years (mean)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>0.796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region of origin (% from Africa)</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>0.249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gestational weeks at delivery (mean)</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>0.731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV diagnosis during pregnancy (%)</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Results: <2/52 ART

- 103 pregnancies
- 72 (69%) completed questionnaires returned
- Response vs. non-response compared
  - No difference in age, region of origin, gestation at delivery, timing of diagnosis
  - Out of London centres more likely to respond
Reasons for short ART duration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women diagnosed during pregnancy (n=56)</th>
<th>Women diagnosed prior to conception (n=16)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Late booking 26 (46%)</td>
<td>• Refusal of treatment 6 (38%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Refusal of treatment 8 (14%)</td>
<td>• Late booking 4 (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• HIV denial 6 (11%)</td>
<td>• Concealed status &amp; declined testing 2 (13%)</td>
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<td>• Provider related 6 (11%)</td>
<td></td>
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Other important findings

- 15% (11/72) of women received no ART
- 8% (6/72) were diagnosed at term
- 17% (12/72) were vaginal deliveries
  - Only 2 had VL<50
- 92% (66/72) infants received ART
  - 94% started within 4 hours
  - 73% treated according to BHIVA guidelines
- MTCT 13% (11/88)
Conclusions

• Unacceptably high MTCT
• Targeted interventions needed
• Improved access to antenatal care for migrant women to reduce late booking
• Structural failures
• Use of rapid testing techniques
• Research to establish effective management strategies in women who refuse ART required
A special thank you to the NSHPC and all those who completed the questionnaires

... Any questions?