

Extended daily nevirapine prophylaxis for HIV exposed infants improves uptake of HIV testing in Western Kenya.

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BACKGROUND

- Early infant diagnosis for HIV is a critical component of the care of HIV exposed infants
- For infants who contract HIV and do not receive antiretroviral therapy (ART), there is a 50% mortality rate
- <15% of HEI worldwide receive appropriate testing

OBJECTIVES

- Compare uptake and timeliness of HIV testing between infants receiving extended daily NVP and a historical cohort who received 6 weeks of zidovudine (AZT) at three clinics in Kenya.
- The primary outcome was proportion of infants returning for HIV testing.

METHODS

Setting

- FACES is a PEPFAR-funded comprehensive HIV prevention, care and treatment program based in Migori, Homa bay, Kisumu Counties
- The study was conducted in FACES supported Kenyan Ministry of Health (MOH) clinics :
 - Lumumba Health Center, Kisumu County
 - Migori District Hospital, Migori County
 - Oyani Health Center, Migori County

METHODS

Time Interval:

- eNVP Cohort – June 2011 to November 2013
- Historical Cohort – January 2008 to January 2011

This cohort study compared:

- Testing uptake and timeliness between a group of prospectively followed infants receiving eNVP prophylaxis and a historical cohort who received single dose NVP at birth with 6 weeks of zidovudine (AZT)



METHODS

Table 2. Daily nevirapine (dNVP) prophylaxis for HIV-exposed infants

Age	Nevirapine dose
0 – 6 weeks	Birth weight <2500 g – 10 mg (1 ml) once daily Birth weight >2500 g – 15 mg (1.5 ml) once daily
6 weeks – 14 weeks	20 mg (2 ml) once daily
14 weeks to 6 months	25 mg (2.5 ml) once daily
6 months – 9 months	30 mg (3 ml) once daily
9 months – 12 months	40 mg (4 ml) once daily
>12 months	50 mg (5 ml) once daily

METHODS

Analysis

- Data was transferred to STATA 12 for all the analysis
- Bivariate analysis was done to determine significant differences between cohorts and infection rate using Chi Square and Fishers Exact Tests as Appropriate
- A p-value < 0.05 was considered significant

RESULTS

Uptake of Testing:

Testing Timepoint	Historical Cohort <i>n=362</i>	NVP Cohort <i>n=283</i>	p-value
6 week PCR uptake	330 (91.2%)	280 (98.9%)	<0.001
9-12 month antibody uptake	204 (56.4%)	209 (73.9%)	<0.001
18 month antibody uptake	150 (41.4%)	173 (61.1%)	<0.001

RESULTS

Timeliness of testing

Testing Timepoint	Historical Cohort <i>n</i> =362	NVP Cohort <i>n</i> =283	p-value
Mean age at 9-12 month test	12.6 months	10.4 months	
Mean age at 18 month test	19.4 months	19.7 months	0.436
Tested on time 9- 12 months	37(18.1%)	21(10.1%)	0.018
Tested on time 18 months	5(3.3%)	6(3.6%)	0.916

RESULTS

- At each testing timepoint, uptake of testing was significantly higher among infants receiving extended daily NVP
- The historical cohort had significantly more infants testing on time for the 9-12 month antibody test compared with the NVP cohort
- There was no difference in the timeliness of testing between cohorts at 18 months

CONCLUSION

Extended daily anti-retroviral prophylaxis for infants is associated with significant increases in HIV-testing uptake.

This may lead to improved outcomes including reduced HIV transmission and early HIV diagnosis.

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