

Hot Topic

Special Issue for CURRENT HIV RESEARCH

Guest Editor: Avinash K. Shetty, MD

Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV in Resource-Limited Countries

Aims and Scope:

Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV is a major public health challenge in resource-limited settings. An estimated 430,000 new HIV infections occur in children each year in sub Saharan Africa, primarily due to mother-to-child transmission. Transmission of HIV during breastfeeding accounts for more than 40% of infections. Despite significant progress made in prevention of perinatal HIV infection, less than 25% of women in the developing world have access to PMTCT interventions. Translating research findings into policy and practice is critical to prevent new perinatal HIV infections in these settings. In this review we provide an update on antiretroviral strategies to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV in sub Saharan Africa, review operational challenges and barriers to implementation of PMTCT programs globally, discuss HIV and infant feeding issues and highlight the important role of family planning and reproductive health services in PMTCT programs to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Key words:

HIV, prevention, mother-to-child, infant feeding, reproductive health, breastfeeding, resource-limited settings

Tentative Subtopics:

- Antiretroviral regimens to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV in resource-limited settings.
- Operational issues and barriers to implementation of PMTCT interventions in sub Saharan Africa.
- Update on HIV and infant feeding issues in resource-limited settings.
- Family planning/reproductive health needs of HIV-infected women in resource-limited settings.

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