High HIV prevalence among surviving children of HIV infected adults enrolled in care and treatment programs in Nigeria: Experience from adult chart audit and provider initiated testing

Abiodun JONATHAN, Abiola AOMREORE, Stephen ARPADI, Ubesie AGOZIE, Frank ORONSAYE, Idayat UTHMAN, Ladi SOTIMEHIN, Mame A TOURE, Bola OYELEDUN

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Background: Pediatric HIV in Nigeria

- Nigeria has the highest burden of paediatric HIV disease in the world:
  - There are estimated 297,000 children with HIV-infection
    Which is 15% of the global burden of paediatric HIV

- Significant achievements have been made to ensure access to HIV care and antiretroviral treatment (ART) in Nigeria
  - There were 302,973 clients on ARVs as at Dec 2009

- However, only 18,092 children (18% of those estimated in need) have initiated ART
The International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs (ICAP) began working in partnership with Nigeria’s Federal Ministry of Health since 2006.

ICAP supports family-centered comprehensive HIV/AIDS care in 6 states including:
- 30 comprehensive HIV treatment sites
- 111 PMTCT sites

41,094 individuals have initiated ART
- However, only 2,574 (6.3%) children less than 15 years have started treatment
Objectives: Adult Chart Audit and PITC

1. To identify and track all children of adults in care using the genealogy form

2. To conduct provider initiated testing and counseling for HIV (PITCH) among previously untested children

3. To enroll identified HIV infected children in care
Methods (1)

- During May –July 2009 we conducted a medical records review at 21 treatment sites with >1000 HIV-infected adult patients.
- Records were reviewed to determine the number of children, HIV testing history and HIV status of each child in the family.
- This information is routinely collected upon registration and is included in a Geneology form.
Genealogy form

Columbia University: ICAP-NIGERIA
Pediatric Genealogy Form

Date: __/__/____

ART Client – Unique ART No. of the Index Client: ____________________________
Pre ART Client – Pre ART Serial No. (Facility Card Number) ___________________

Mother, Age  
01234

Father, Age  
01234

UAN: ____________________________

1st Child, Age  
01234

2nd Child, Age  
01234

3rd Child, Age  
01234

4th Child, Age  
01234

5th Child, Age  
01234

6th Child, Age  
01234

7th Child, Age  
01234

UAN: ____________________________

UAN: ____________________________

UAN: ____________________________

Legend
0 = HIV Negative
1 = HIV – Infected
2 = HIV – exposed (For infants < 18 months of age whose status has not yet been determined)
3 = Pre-ART
4 = ART

Remark ____________________________

N.B.: 
- Identify the index case by putting asterisk (*) or by marking the box with a highlighter.
- Be the responsibility of the provider to ensure family members are tested.
- For clients who are on ART, please write the Unique Art number (UAN) in the box.
- A child is defined here as age less than 14 years.
Methods (II)

- Each medical record was tagged with a sticker indicating number of children in the family who were not previously tested for HIV.
- During subsequent visits, HIV testing was recommended to the patient for each untested child and appointments were scheduled.
- As each child was tested chart stickers were updated to reflect number of children remaining to be tested.
- Stickers were removed once all children in the family were HIV tested.
- Charts with missing or incomplete genealogy forms were flagged for completion at next visit.

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Results (I)

Chart showing outcomes of audit of 22,915 charts

- 14.503; 63% - Children documented as previously tested with results
- 5.264; 23% - Children with no documentation of being tested or not
- 3.148; 14% - Children documented as not previously tested
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Results (II): Flow chart showing all outcomes of chart audit

16,324 Adult Charts and Genealogy forms reviewed

22,915 Children listed in the Genealogy forms

3,148 (14%) had documentation of previous HIV test with result

14,503 (63%) had documentation of not previously HIV tested

5,264 (23%) had no documentation being HIV tested or not

866 with HIV+ results identified in care or successfully tracked

2,883 (19.9% of 14,503) tracked successfully & tested for HIV

648 (22.5%) Tested HIV+

Total successfully tracked, found HIV + and enrolled =1514 (866 + 648)
Results (III)

- Altogether, 1,514 (866+648) HIV+ children were identified, successfully registered in care and had at least one clinic attendance during the intervention.

- The children with no documentation on HIV testing (5,264) were not involved in this analysis. Medical records also tagged the case notes and worked to update their information as parents presented at the clinic during the intervention so they can be tracked and tested appropriately.
Challenges and Limitations

- Few children of HIV infected adults in care get tested for HIV
- Feedback from some parents tracked revealed most children listed could not be brought to the facility for testing due to lack of funds for transportation
- A considerable number of adult files had either missing or incomplete genealogy form-5,264 (23%)
Conclusions

- We found the prevalence of HIV infection among children of HIV infected adults that were tracked and brought back for testing in our facilities to be high (>22%).
- Active tracking and PITC of children of adult clients is effective for identification of HIV infected children and increase enrolment into care and treatment.
- Service providers of Adult HIV care are important for identifying HIV infected children.
- Implementation of PICT within adult treatment programs to identify HIV +ve children should be sustained and strengthened.

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Lessons learned

- Improved tracking of children through the use of genealogy forms provided opportunity to actively detect the positive children and link them to care and treatment.
- Interventions such as these are critically needed in order to identify and enroll HIV infected children into care and treatment in a timely manner in resource limited settings.
THANK YOU