

Evaluation of the Effect of Exclusive Breastfeeding with Maternal Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) for 6 months on Infant HIV Infection

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PLAN

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Introduction

- According to WHO 2007, 2.5 million children HIV+.
- 1.5 million were in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The reduction of HIV during lactation is one of the most pressing global health issues.
- Replacement feeding prevents HIV transmission during lactation.
- In resource limited settings access to replacement feed is hindered by cost, poor water quality, sanitation, cultural practices and stigma associated with not breastfeeding.


Objectives

- Evaluation of the effect of exclusive breastfeeding with maternal HAART for 6 months on infant HIV infection.
- Compare the incidence of infant HIV infection in breastfeeding mothers and in mothers who opted for replacement feeding.

Study Population

- Pregnant women with HIV infection, ≥ 18 years old, who started HAART at ≥ 25 weeks of gestation, attending the Health Centre of Matola.

Methods

- Observational prospective cohort study.
 - Two arms: women who chose exclusive breastfeeding and women who opted for replacement feeding.
 - Outcome: proportion of infants with HIV infection at 6 months of life.
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Analyses

- All clinical, demographic and laboratory data will be incorporated into an integrated data management system of the DREAM program.
- Excel program for average, percentage, rate calculation and Epi info 3.5.1.
- The incidence rate of infant HIV infection at 6 months will be calculated in both groups.

Work Plan

| Months | Activity |
|--------------|--|
| December | Application for ethical approval, sensibilization to DREAM management and health works PMTCT |
| January-June | Data entry and Monitoring |
| July | Analysis |
| August | Reporting, writing, and dissemination of findings |

Ethical considerations

- A request for approval will be submitted to the Ministry of Health and the Comunità di Sant'Egidio.
 - The mothers will be informed about the study, and the risks and benefits of the two feeding options .
 - Confidentiality will be respected.
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