

Vaginal Practices and the risk of vaginosis, HIV and other STI's in Mozambique

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WHO Scholarship

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(WHO/GFMER)

Outline

- Background
- Study objectives
- Research questions
- Outcomes
- Introduction and Literature review
- Methodology
- Data analysis
- Ethical considerations

Background

- Vaginal practices is a term covering a variety of behaviours undertaken for a variety of motives, with the common element being that they involve some modification to the labia, clitoris, or the vagina.
- Mozambique is participating in a WHO comparative Study on Gender, Sexuality and Vaginal Practices to build the knowledge base on the extent to which they impact in sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

Study Objectives

- ✓ Obtain estimates of prevalence of vaginal practices (VP).
- ✓ Evaluate association: HIV *and* VP.
- ✓ Evaluate association: Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Herpes, Papilloma Virus/ Genital Warts, Syphilis *and* VP.
- ✓ Evaluate association: vaginosis and VP.

Research Questions

- What VP (efforts to modify, cut, dry, cleanse, enhance, tighten, lubricate or loosen the vagina, labia, clitoris or hymen) are found among women in the study?

Research Questions

- Is the risk of having HIV increased with different VP?
- Is the risk of having other STI's increased with different VP?
- Is the risk of having vaginosis increased with different VP?

Outcomes

- ✓ Inform policies on STI's, Sexual/reproductive health and HIV/AIDS at all levels.
- ✓ Contribute to the development of relevant messages for STI's, Sexual/reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.
- ✓ Significant contribute for international knowledge on the issue.

Introduction and literature review



- Population \pm 20 million and adult HIV prevalence of 13,6%.
- Oriental cost- Austral Africa, surrounded by six countries, five with prevalence levels of HIV above its own : Malawi 14,2%, South Africa 24%, Zimbabwe 24,6%, Zambia 24,7% and Swaziland 38,8%.

Introduction and literature review

- The mechanisms implicated in the association between VP and vaginosis, STI's including HIV are inter related.
- Sexually transmitted pathogens, including HIV, have difficult surviving in vaginal normal conditions.
- Substances inserted can disrupt epithelial surfaces, either through physical trauma or chemical irritation, leading to changes on the integrity of mucosa and in the vaginal flora.
- Lack of evidence (Cross sectional S.: risk? Temporal association?)

Methodology

- Longitudinal cohort , in Tete Province, 2007.
- The research will be carried out in a representative sample of the health unities in the province.
- Study population: Women aged 15 - 49 attending primary health services at public sector health.

Methodology

- Sample size: 1020 (?)
- Training and pilot study: 3/4 weeks, procedures of diagnosis, basic knowledge about gender, sexuality and vaginal practices, ethical aspects.

Methodology

➤ Instruments

- Questionnaire on demographic characteristics, sexual behaviours, vaginal practices, STI's and vaginosis precedents.
- Physical examination
- HIV test, Neisseria gonorrhoeae , Chlamydia trachomatis, and syphilis test.

Data Analysis

- Informatics packages (SPSS/STATA?)
 - Univariate exploratory and descriptive analyses
 - Cross tabulations (bivariate analysis)- significant associations(?)

Ethical considerations

- The clinical staff will be trained on ethic issues, to respect the participant's, values, beliefs, decisions and choices.
- Confidentiality and safety will be highly remarked to the health providers as a basic and fundamental issue.
- Informed Consent is mandatory.



THANK VERY MUCH!