

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

Acceptance Rate of HIV Testing among Women Seeking Induced Abortion in Benin City, Nigeria

ME Enosolease^{1*} and E Offor²

Departments of Haematology¹ and Medical Microbiology², School of Medicine, College of Medical Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria

***For Correspondence:** Dr M. E. Enosolease, Department of Haematology, School of Medicine, College of Medical Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria.

Abstract

Although the campaign against HIV has been intensive, it has been focused mainly on the public health implications. Little or no attention is specifically directed at encouraging the public to know their HIV serostatus. The actual public health burden due to this infection is therefore not known. Accurate data on the health burden is critical for national planning on preventive and other interventional measures. Using a semi-structured self-administered questionnaire, we interviewed 1051 women seeking induced abortion in four randomly selected private clinics in Benin City between January and September 2002. The blood samples of those who accepted HIV testing were collected and screened at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital. The women were aged between 16 and 46 years (mean 31.1 ± 6.7 years). One hundred and thirty seven women (13%) accepted HIV testing. Of the 1051 women, 1001 (95.2%) had multiple sexual partners and 722 (68.8%) regularly practiced unprotected sex. All were aware of HIV/AIDS. The older women were more likely to accept voluntary HIV testing than the younger ones. Acceptance rate for voluntary HIV testing was low in both the employed and unemployed and much lower among full time housewives ($p = 0.01$). We therefore recommend that HIV campaign programmes should include strategies aimed at arousing public interest in voluntary HIV testing. (*Afr J Reprod Health* 2004; 8[2]: 86-90)

Keywords: HIV testing, acceptance rate, women, abortion

References

1. UNAIDS. *Knowledge is Power: Voluntary HIV Counseling and Testing in Uganda*. Geneva: UNAIDS, 1999.
2. Kawichai S, Celentano DD, Chaifongsri R, Nelson KE, Srithanaviboochai K, et al. Profile of HIV voluntary counseling and testing of clients at a district hospital, Chiang Mai Province, Northern Thailand, from 1995 to 1999. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr* 2002; 30(5): 493-502.
3. Meda N, Zoundi-Guigui MT, van de Perre P, Alary M, Ouangre A, et al. HIV infection among pregnant women in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso: comparison of voluntary and blinded seroprevalence estimates. *Int J STD AIDS* 1999; 10(11): 738-740.
4. Gruslin A, Saivador A, Dekker M, Menard-de Varennes D and Eason E. Prenatal HIV screening in a tertiary care center. *Can J Public Health* 2001; 92(4): 255-258.
5. Jayaraman GC, Preiksaitis JK and Larke B. Mandatory reporting of HIV infection and opt-out prenatal screening for HIV infection: effects on testing rates. *CMAJ* 2003; 168(6): 679-82.
6. Robbins AS, Jablonski CL, Mitchell BE, King SA, Melville SK and Stanley SK. Parental HIV testing in private OB-Gynpractices in Texas. *Tex Med* 2002; 98(5): 50-55.
7. Larsson G, Spangberg L, Lindgren S and Bohlin AB. Screening for HIV in pregnant women: a study of maternal opinion. *AIDS Care* 1990; 2(3): 223-228.
8. Heckert KA, Bagshaw S, Fursman L, Kipa M, Wilson M, et al. Women's acceptability of screening for HIV in pregnancy. *NZ Med J* 2001; 114(1144): 509-512.
9. Forsythe S, Arthur G, Ngatia G, Mutemi R, Odhiambo J and Gilks C. Assessing the cost and willingness to pay for voluntary HIV counseling and testing in Kenya. *Health Policy Plan* 2002; 17(2): 187-195.
10. Tse HY, Lai FK, Wong J, Chan AS and Tang LC. Universal screening of human immunodeficiency virus infection in pregnant women in Hong Kong: prospective study. *Hong Kong Med J* 2001; 7(3): 246-250.
11. Kowalczyk J, Jolly P, Karita E, Nibarere JA, Vyankandondera J and Salihu H. Voluntary counseling and testing for HIV among pregnant women presenting in labour in Kigali, Rwanda. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr* 2002; 31(4): 408-415.
12. Pool R, Nyanzi S and Whitworth JA. Attitudes to voluntary counseling and testing for HIV among pregnant women in rural south-west Uganda. *AIDS Care* 2001; 13(13): 605-615.
13. Akpede GO, Lawal RS and Momoh SO. Perception of voluntary screening for paediatric HIV and response to post-test counseling by Nigerian parents. *AIDS Care* 2002; 14(5): 683-697.

14. Spielberg F, Branson BM, Goldbaum GM, Lockhart D, Kurth A, et al. Overcoming barriers to HIV testing; preferences for new strategies among clients of a needle exchange, a sexually transmitted disease clinic, and sex venues for men who have sex with men. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr* 2003; 32(3): 318-327.
15. Erwin J, Morgan M, Britten N, Gray K and Peters B. Pathways to HIV testing and care by black Africans and white patients in London. *Sex Transm Infect* 2002; 78(1): 37-39.