

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Risk perception and sex behaviour in pregnancy and breastfeeding in high HIV prevalence settings: Programmatic implications for PrEP delivery

PLoS One | Published: 14 May 2018.

Dvora Joseph Davey, Elise Farley, Catriona Towriss, Yolanda Gomba, Linda-Gail Bekker, Pamina Gorbach, Steven Shoptaw, Thomas Coates, Landon Myer

HIV acquisition during pregnancy and breastfeeding significantly contributes toward paediatric HIV infection; however, little is known about risk behaviours in HIV-uninfected pregnant and postpartum women. We conducted twenty-six in-depth-interviews between July and December 2016 using a semi-structured interview guide among HIV-uninfected pregnant and recently postpartum women at-risk of HIV acquisition (defined as reporting ≥ 1 of the following: partner's serostatus unknown or HIV-infected, recent condomless sex in pregnancy, and/or alcohol use during pregnancy) who attended primary healthcare services.

Effect of ready-to-use supplementary food on mortality in severely immunocompromised HIV-infected individuals in Africa initiating antiretroviral therapy (REALITY): an open-label, parallel-group, randomised controlled trial

The Lancet HIV | Published: 10 April 2018.

Jane Mallewa, Alexander J Szubert, Prof Peter Mugenyi, Ennie Chidziva, Margaret J Thomason, Priscilla Chepkorir, George Abongomera, Keith Baleeta, et al

In sub-Saharan Africa, severely immunocompromised HIV-infected individuals have a high risk of mortality during the first few months after starting antiretroviral therapy (ART). We hypothesise that universally providing ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF) would increase early weight gain, thereby reducing early mortality compared with current guidelines recommending ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) for severely malnourished individuals only.

Strengthening primary eye care in South Africa: An assessment of services and prospective evaluation of a health systems support package

PLoS One | Published: 14 May 2018.

Rivka R Lilian, Jean Railton, Erik Schaftenaar, Moyahabo Mabitsi, Cornelis J Grobbelaar, N Sellina Khosa,

Babra H Maluleke, Helen E Struthers, et al

Visual impairment is a significant public health concern, particularly in low- and middle-income countries where eye care is predominantly provided at the primary healthcare (PHC) level, known as primary eye care. This study aimed to perform an evaluation of primary eye care services in three districts of South Africa and to assess whether an ophthalmic health system strengthening (HSS) package could improve these services.

Five year neurodevelopment outcomes of perinatally HIV-infected children on early limited or deferred continuous antiretroviral therapy

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 3 May 2018.

Barbara Laughton, Morna Cornell, Martin Kidd, Priscilla Estelle Springer, Els Françoise Marie-Thérèse Dobbels, Anita Janse Van Rensburg, Kennedy Ot wombe, Abdel Babiker, et al

Early antiretroviral therapy (ART) has improved neurodevelopmental outcomes of HIV-infected (HIV-positive) children; however, little is known about the longer term outcomes in infants commencing early ART or whether temporary ART interruption might have long-term consequences. In the children with HIV early antiretroviral treatment (CHER) trial, HIV-infected infants ≤ 12 weeks of age with CD4 $\geq 25\%$ were randomized to deferred ART (ART-Def); immediate time-limited ART for 40 weeks (ART-40W) or 96 weeks (ART-96W). ART was restarted in the time-limited arms for immunologic/clinical progression. Our objective was to compare the neurodevelopmental profiles in all three arms of Cape Town CHER participants.

Feasibility of using postal and web-based surveys to estimate the prevalence of tuberculosis among health care workers in South Africa

PLoS One | Published: 10 May 2018.

Pinky N Manana, Lazarus Kuonza, Alfred Musekiwa, Hendrik Koornhof, Ananta Nanoo, Nazir Ismail

Health Care Workers (HCWs) are among the highest risk groups for contracting tuberculosis (TB), which is ranked the third most common occupational health disease in South Africa. Little is known about the true extent of the burden of TB among South African HCWs and current surveillance approaches are inadequate. The study aimed to determine the feasibility of using postal and web-based surveys accessed through registries of registered professionals to estimate the prevalence of TB among HCWs in South Africa.

A cross-sectional exploratory study of knowledge, attitudes, and practices of emergency health care providers in the assessment of child maltreatment in Maputo, Mozambique

BMC Emergency Medicine | Published: 9 May 2018.

Liliana Pinto, Adriana Lein, Raquel Mahoque, David W Wright, Scott M Sasser, Catherine A Staton

In Mozambique, and other low-income countries (LICs), there is little information on the burden of child maltreatment (CM). Emergency care services (ECS) play an important role in recognizing, treating, and intervening in situations of CM. We aim to identify knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding CM among health care providers in ECS at Mavalane General Hospital in Maputo, Mozambique.

Early safety and efficacy of the combination of bedaquiline and delamanid for the treatment of patients with drug-resistant tuberculosis in Armenia, India, and South Africa: a retrospective cohort study

The Lancet Infectious Diseases | Published: 13 February 2018.

Gabriella Ferlazzo, Erika Mohr, Chinmay Laxmeshwar, Catherine Hewison, Jennifer Hughes, Sylvie Jonckheere, Naira Khachatryan, Virginia De Avezedo

Bedaquiline and delamanid have been approved for treatment of multidrug-resistant (MDR) tuberculosis in the past 5 years. Because of theoretical safety concerns, patients have been unable to access the two drugs in combination. Médecins Sans Frontières has supported the use of combination bedaquiline and delamanid for people with few treatment options since 2016. We describe early safety and efficacy of regimens containing the bedaquiline and delamanid combination in patients with drug-resistant tuberculosis in Yerevan, Armenia; Mumbai, India; and Khayelitsha, South Africa.

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RECENT NEWS

Why do so many South Africans die of TB?

GroundUp | 17 May 2018.

Listeriosis has killed about 200 people since January last year... In the last 14 hours about the same number of people died of another bacterium –Tuberculosis. The World Health Organisation estimates that 124,000 people died of TB in South Africa in 2016 (about 330 daily). It is the country's leading cause of death, and has been made much worse by the HIV epidemic: over 80% of people who died of TB in 2016 were also infected with HIV. People with damaged immune systems are at much greater risk of becoming ill with TB.

No more victim blaming: Preventing HIV in young women

Health-e News | 14 May 2018.

An estimated 2 000 new HIV infections occur in young women and girls every week in South Africa. Two high-profile programmes are aiming to address this crisis. In this joint Spotlight/Health-e News Service special investigation goes beyond the bells and whistles and asks what difference these programmes are really making.

Family physicians are improving health care in South Africa's rural communities

The Conversation Africa | 1 May 2018.

In developing countries – and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa – most primary care services are offered by nurses, not doctors as is the case in developed countries. In addition most of the doctors have no specific training in family medicine or primary care.

Improving service delivery: Challenges in the public sector and how to address them

Daily Maverick | 14 May 2018.

Public sector reform is essential to ensure that the most vulnerable receive the benefits of our progressive social policies. The death of 144 patients in the Life Esidimeni tragedy is symbolic of broader public sector failures. Other public-sector failures seem less significant or inconsequential. To prevent future tragedies of this nature we must acknowledge that they are not isolated events and are symptoms of systemic public-sector failure.

How mine dumps in South Africa affect the health of communities living nearby

The Conversation Africa | 2 May 2018.

Mining is a major economic activity in many developing countries. In South Africa, mining of gold, coal and other natural resources has played a significant role in the country's economy, with both positive and negative consequences.

Experimental vaccine to be used against Ebola outbreak in the DRC

STAT | 13 May 2018.

A campaign to vaccinate people at risk of developing Ebola in the latest outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo could begin by the end of this week, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the World Health Organization, said Sunday.

This small island paradise is showing Africa how to beat Malaria

OZY | 14 May 2018.

Hamilton Nascimento remembers missing months of school as a child when he repeatedly got sick with malaria. It used to be an unavoidable part of life in São Tomé and Príncipe, a nation of two tiny islands in West Africa's Gulf of Guinea, where Nascimento grew up. But not anymore.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Px Pulse podcast: From the Trenches, Advocates Share Their Prevention Priorities

Px Pulse | 30 April 2018.

Px Pulse is a project of AVAC and its partners in the Coalition to Accelerate and Support Prevention Research. Each month the podcast will use interviews, discussion and first-person reflections to explore

vital topics confronting the field of HIV prevention research.

Px Pulse features in-depth conversations with voices from the field or listen to highlighted selections from those interviews.

In this episode the podcast brings you two different conversations, each throwing a spotlight on different aspects of HIV prevention advocacy today.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Saving lives, spending less: a strategic response to NCDs

World Health Organisation | 16 May 2018.

[This] new WHO report...shows that the world's poorest countries can gain US\$350 billion by 2030 by scaling up investments in preventing and treating chronic diseases, like heart disease and cancer, that cost an additional US\$1.27 per person annually. Such actions would save more than 8 million lives over the same period.

The report ... reveals, for the first time, the financing needs and returns on investment of WHO's cost-effective and feasible "best buy" policies to protect people from noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), the world's leading causes of ill health and death.

Managing epidemics: Key facts about major deadly diseases

World Health Organisation | May 2018.

This manual provides concise and up-to-date knowledge on 15 infectious diseases that have the potential to become international threats, and tips on how to respond to each of them.

The 21st century has already been marked by major epidemics. Old diseases - cholera, plague and yellow fever - have returned, and new ones have emerged - SARS, pandemic influenza, MERS, Ebola and Zika.

These epidemics and their impact on global public health have convinced the world's governments of the need for a collective and coordinated defense against emerging public health threats and accelerated the revision of the International Health Regulations (2005), entered into force in 2007.

Integrating neglected tropical diseases in global health and development: Fourth WHO report on neglected tropical diseases

World Health Organisation | 19 April 2018.

Integrating neglected tropical diseases into global health and development: fourth WHO report on neglected tropical diseases evaluates the changing global public health landscape; assesses progress towards the 2020 targets; and considers the possible core elements of a strategic vision to integrating neglected tropical diseases into the 2030 Agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Africa Health

29-31 May 2018

Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

SACIM 2018 Integrative Medicine Congress

17-18 November 2018

NH The Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset West, Cape Town, South Africa

International Conference on Community Nursing and Public Health

19-21 November 2018

Protea Hotel Cape Town Waterfront Breakwater Lodge, Cape Town, South Africa

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Star For Life: Mobile Health Unit Assistant

Closing Date: 18 May 2018

SA Partners: Linkage Officer/ Group Facilitator

Closing Date: 19 May 2018

Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation: Study Coordinator

Closing Date: 23 May 2018

Medecins Sans Frontieres: Access Campaign advocate for Southern Africa

Closing Date: 3 June 2018

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