



POSTER PRESENTATION

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Civic educating rural pregnant mothers to take full nevirapine dose a tool to reducing HIV prevalence in Malawi

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Background

It is estimated that 600,000 women get pregnant every year in Malawi. Primary health care plays a vital role. Prevention to Child Transmission of HIV education is important in a country like Malawi where prevalence of HIV positive mothers exceeds 20% than normal country prevalence of 12%. In the ultra-partum period Nevirapine has proved to be an effective drug in reducing transmission from mother to Child. Accessibility of essential medicine like nevirapine drug to women and neonates is especially a problem to rural areas where many women deliver at home due to difficulties in accessing health facilities.

Objectives

This civic education intervention aimed to increase rural HIV+ pregnant mothers uptake of Nevirapine tablets and syrup for infants' dose for Prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV and to promote hospital delivery.

Methods

Global Hope Mobilization is providing education and counselling to women in rural setting to access basic medicines such as nevirapine, as well as to promote hospital delivery in Lilongwe district rural setting. Households with pregnant women were included through a random sample and a total of 700 pregnant women were included in a programme to provide civic education materials, including leaflets; local meetings, counselling sessions, and home visits. Nevirapine tablets and syrup were also administered, ANC data were collected and used from the nearest health facility. The intervention was assessed through one to one interviews, focus group discussion, and questionnaires.

Results

100% of the pregnant women were sensitized on taking nevirapine, counselled and referred for HIV testing. To date 98% of women have attended pre and post VCT counselling testing and ANC at health facilities and at private clinics referred to. Of these women 66% were found to be HIV positive. Nevirapine tablets and instructions were issued to them when they reached 32 to 34 weeks of gestation. 60% Infants received Nevirapine syrup within 3 days after birth. Of these 6% are not known to have taken syrup and were lost to follow up, while 60% returned for post counselling. The major barriers of the intervention were home delivery, traditional beliefs and lack of knowledge of HIV status and on the course of nevirapine.

Discussion

The main risk factor for lack of full take up of Nevirapine for HIV+ women is home delivery and lack of knowledge on their HIV status. A civic education on Nevirapine and hospital delivery among HIV positive pregnant women in this rural population setting can reduce HIV transmission from mother to child.

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