

RECENTLY PUBLISHED RESEARCH

- **Callahan RL, Taylor D, Jenkins DW, Owen DH, Cheng L, Cancel AM, Dorflinger LJ, Steiner MJ**
In vivo release of levonorgestrel from Sino-implant (II) — an innovative comparison of explant data. Contraception 2015 Oct; 92 (4): 350-5. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.335]

This innovative approach measured the amount of contraceptive hormone remaining in removed Sino-implant (II) rods that had been used for various lengths of time and compared the data to reports from Jadelle. The results provide evidence that Sino-implant (II) may perform similarly to Jadelle over three years and remain a highly effective contraceptive beyond this time point.

- **Corneli A, Namey E, Ahmed K, Agot K, Skhosana J, Odhiambo J, Guest G**
Motivations for reducing other HIV risk-reduction practices if taking pre-exposure prophylaxis: Findings from a qualitative study among women in Kenya and South Africa. AIDS Patient Care STDS 2015 Sep; 29 (9): 503-9. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.497]

Women at high risk for HIV in Kenya and South Africa described numerous reasons for reducing or stopping the use of condoms if they were to start taking pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention. These findings suggest that enhanced counseling is needed to promote informed decision making and to ensure overall sexual health for women using PrEP, particularly with respect to the prevention of pregnancy and other sexually transmitted infections when PrEP is used alone.

- **Costenbader EC, Lancaster K, Bufumbo L, Akol A, Guest G**
On the road again: Concurrency and condom use among Uganda truck drivers. Afr J AIDS Res 2015 Jun; 14 (2): 117-25. [Journal Impact Factor: 0.790]

Analyses of data collected from Ugandan truck drivers showed that overlapping sexual relationships with two or more long-term partners, with whom condoms were not being used, was common. These findings are of particular concern because this population is sometimes considered a key bridging population in the HIV epidemic. Innovative intervention programs that address the realities of truck drivers' lifestyles are needed for these men and their partners.

- **Deese J, Masson L, Miller W, Cohen M, Morrison C, Wang M, Ahmed K, Crucitti T, Abdellati S, Van Damme L**
Injectable progestin-only contraception is associated with increased levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines in the female genital tract. Am J Reprod Immunol 2015 Oct; 74 (4): 357-67. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.438]

Contraceptive use of depot medroxyprogesterone acetate or norethisterone oenanthate was associated with increased inflammation in the female genital tract. Such inflammation is associated with increased HIV target cell availability and the likelihood of an increased risk of HIV acquisition, which is an ongoing concern for users of these contraceptives. The Evidence for Contraceptive Options and HIV Outcomes (ECHO) consortium is conducting a randomized clinical trial to define the role of hormonal contraception in HIV acquisition.

- **Feldblum PJ, Okech J, Ochieng R, Hart C, Kiyuka G, Lai JJ, Veena V**
Longer-term follow-up of Kenyan men circumcised using the ShangRing device. PLoS One 2015 Sep; 10 (9): e0137510. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.234]

This study assessed the long-term safety and acceptability of adult male circumcision using the ShangRing device, examining and interviewing Kenyan men two to three years after their circumcisions. Delayed complications were few and men's satisfaction with the procedure was still high. These results support the good safety record of the ShangRing device for observation periods longer than the six to eight weeks of most clinical studies.

- **Fichorova RN, Chen PL, Morrison CS, Doncel GF, Mendonca K, Kwok C, Chipato T, Salata R, Mauck C**
The contribution of cervicovaginal infections to the immunomodulatory effects of hormonal contraception. MBio 2015 Sep; 6 (5): e00221-15. [Journal Impact Factor: 6.786]

This article suggests that the suppressive effects of hormonal contraceptives on vaginal immunity are modified by the presence of genital tract infections. Therefore, studies assessing the effects of hormonal contraception on HIV susceptibility and vaginal immunity may lead to different results in populations with differing levels and types of genital tract infections.

- **Gonsalves L, L'Engle KL, Tamrat T, Plourde KF, Mangone ER, Agarwal S, Say L, Hindin MJ**
Adolescent/Youth Reproductive Mobile Access and Delivery Initiative for Love and Life Outcomes (ARMADILLO) Study: Formative protocol for mHealth platform development and piloting. Reprod Health 2015 Aug; 12 (Article No. 67): 10 p. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.883]

Adolescents and youth have a high unmet need for sexual and reproductive health information and services. This paper describes the formative study — Adolescent/Youth Reproductive Mobile Access and Delivery Initiative for Love and Life Outcomes (ARMADILLO) — that will inform the development of a scalable platform for delivering text messages about sexual and reproductive health information to young people.

- **Hamilton CD, Swaminathan S, Christopher DJ, Ellner J, Gupta A, Sterling TR, Rolla V, Srinivasan S, Karyana M, Siddiqui S, Stoszek SK, Kim P**
RePORT International: Advancing tuberculosis biomarker research through global collaboration. Clin Infect Dis 2015 Oct; 61 (Suppl 3): S155-9. [Journal Impact Factor: 8.886]

The paper describes a new effort to build the capacity of clinical research networks in high tuberculosis burden settings. The networks use standardized common protocol to collect data and biological specimens to facilitate tuberculosis biomarker research and discovery of new diagnosis, prevention and treatment.

- **Hoang TV, Thanh Ha TT, Hoang TM, Nhu NT, Quoc NC, Minh Tam NT, Mills S**
Impact of a methadone maintenance therapy pilot in Vietnam and its role in a scaled-up response. Harm Reduct J 2015 Oct; 12 (Article No. 39): 9 p. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.641]

As a response to the HIV epidemic and the high level of injecting drug use in Vietnam, the Ministry of Health initiated a pilot methadone maintenance therapy (MMT) program to provide evidence that MMT could be successfully implemented and scaled up to other locales. Study findings were used to convince policymakers and the public about the significant and vital role MMT can play in reducing heroin use and improving quality of life for individuals and families.

- **Kashitala J, Nyambe N, Mwalo S, Musamba J, Chishinga N, Kasonde P, Lilja A, Mwiche A, Welsh M**
Is male involvement in ANC and PMTCT associated with increased facility-based obstetric delivery in pregnant women? Afr J Reprod Health 2015 Jun; 19 (2): 117-24. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

In the context of a prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) program, male partner involvement in antenatal care visits is associated with increased deliveries at health facilities and postnatal visits. This paper suggests that male involvement during antenatal visits in a PMTCT program may have a positive impact on maternal and infant morbidity and mortality in Zambia.

- **Katz KR, Nanda K**
A nonsurgical permanent contraception stakeholder advisory committee: FHI 360's experience. Contraception 2015 Aug; 92 (2): 139-42. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.335]

As part of its research on nonsurgical permanent contraception, FHI 360 created a committee of women's health advocates to address the controversy surrounding quinacrine. The committee facilitated communication between stakeholders and researchers and represented user perspectives. This report summarizes the process for establishing the committee, delineates the successes and challenges, and specifies recommendations for other organizations considering stakeholder collaboration.

- **Kidd S, Moore PC, Kirkcaldy RD, Philip SS, Wiesenfeld HC, Papp JR, Kerndt PR, Venkatasubramanian L, Ghanem KG, Hook EW 3rd**
Comparison of antimicrobial susceptibility of urogenital Neisseria gonorrhoeae isolates obtained from women and men. Sex Transm Dis 2015 Aug; 42 (8): 434-9. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.842]

The results suggest that analysis of urethral isolates for gonococcal antimicrobial susceptibility among men reporting sex exclusively with women is likely to adequately represent susceptibility of urogenital *Neisseria gonorrhoea* infections among women. Given the potential threat of drug resistance and limited treatment options, local examination for *N. gonorrhoea* antimicrobial susceptibility will become increasingly important to local and regional treatment guidelines.

- **Mitchell KM, Lepine A, Terris-Prestholt F, Torpey K, Khamofu H, Folayan MO, Musa J, Anenih J, Sagay AS, Alhassan E, Idoko J, Vickerman P**
Modelling the impact and cost-effectiveness of combination prevention amongst HIV serodiscordant couples in Nigeria. AIDS 2015 Sep; 29 (15): 2035-44. [Journal Impact Factor: 5.554]

This article estimates impact and cost-effectiveness of treatment as prevention, pre-exposure prophylaxis and condom promotion for serodiscordant couples in Nigeria. The findings showed that providing antiretroviral therapy to the HIV-positive partner in a discordant couple is the most cost-effective strategy for HIV prevention. Additional cost-effective benefits were found as well.

- **Nguyen PH, Hoang MV, Hajeebhoy N, Tran LM, Le CH, Menon P, Rawat R**
Maternal willingness to pay for infant and young child nutrition counseling services in Vietnam. Glob Health Action 2015 Aug; 8 28001. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.930]

Little is known about willingness to pay for preventive nutrition counseling services in Vietnam. The research findings indicate that a high demand for nutrition counseling and a willingness to pay would potentially finance a mechanism to cover costs of sustaining delivery of good-quality nutrition counseling services.

- **Sabin LL, DeSilva MB, Gill CJ, Zhong L, Vian T, Xie W, Cheng F, Xu K, Lan G, Haberer JE, Bangsberg DR, Li Y, Lu H, Gifford AL**
Improving adherence to antiretroviral therapy with triggered real-time text message reminders: The China Adherence through Technology Study. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr 2015 Aug; 69 (5): 551-9. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.556]

The China Adherence through Technology Study tested an intervention to increase adherence among HIV-positive patients in China using real-time feedback through text-message reminders and counseling. Real-time reminders significantly improved antiretroviral adherence. This approach appears promising for managing HIV and other chronic diseases and warrants further investigation and adaptation in other settings.

- **Schuler SR, Nanda G, Ramirez LF, Chen M**
Interactive workshops to promote gender equity and family planning in rural communities of Guatemala: Results of a community randomized study. J Biosoc Sci 2015 Sep; 47 (5): 667-86. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.260]

Community workshops for men, women and couples were conducted in rural Guatemalan communities to test whether promoting gender equity with regards to reproductive health contributes to gender-equitable attitudes and strengthens family planning practices. The results suggest that it is possible to influence both inequitable gender norms and reproductive health knowledge and behaviors using appropriately designed communications interventions.

- **Shelus V, Lebetkin E, Keyes E, Mensah S, Dzasi K**
Lessons from a geospatial analysis of depot medroxyprogesterone acetate sales by licensed chemical sellers in Ghana. Int J Gynecol Obstet 2015 Aug; 130 (Suppl 3): e25-30. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.537]

This study demonstrates that geospatial analysis is a powerful tool to model program impact and provide information to decision makers to help them understand complex issues. The maps show that access to licensed chemical shops whose staff are trained to administer depot medroxyprogesterone acetate has the potential to increase access to family planning in Ghana.

- **Suwannarong K, Chapman RS, Lantican C, Michaelides T, Zimicki S**
Hunting, food preparation and consumption of rodents in Lao PDR. PLoS One 2015 Jul; 10 (7): e0133150. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.234]

This study focused on rodent-human interactions during rodent hunting, preparation as food and consumption among different ethnic groups, ages and genders in Lao People's Democratic Republic. Analysis showed that the likelihood of these types of rodent contact was consistently associated with behaviors such as gathering, growing crops and taking measures to avoid rodent-borne disease than with socio-demographic, environmental or cultural factors.

- **Tieu HV, Liu TY, Hussen S, Connor M, Wang L, Buchbinder S, Wilton L, Gorbach P, Mayer K, Griffith S, Kelly C, Elharrar V, Phillips G, Cummings V, Koblin B, Latkin C, HPTN O61**
Sexual networks and HIV risk among black men who have sex with men in six U.S. cities. PLoS One 2015 Aug; 10 (8): e0134085. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.234]

Analysis of self-reported data from 1,349 black men who have sex with men in the United States, a group that is disproportionately affected by HIV, found that the men's sexual networks were relatively small and often overlapped with their social networks. Network interventions that engage the social networks of black men who have sex with men, such as peer influence, should be developed to affect social norms around HIV testing and HIV status disclosure.

- **Tongtoyai J, Todd CS, Chonwattana W, Pattanasin S, Chaikummao S, Varangrat A, Lokpichart S, Holtz TH, van Griensven F, Curlin ME**
Prevalence and correlates of Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae by anatomic site among urban Thai men who have sex with men. Sex Transm Dis 2015 Aug; 42 (8): 440-9. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.842]

Findings from this assessment of a cohort of men who have sex with men in Bangkok was notable for measurable prevalent rectal, urethral and pharyngeal *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoea*, which were largely asymptomatic. Routine screening of asymptomatic men who have sex with men for *C. trachomatis* and *N. gonorrhoea* infections should include rectal sampling and particularly focus on men with HIV or a history of other sexually transmitted infections.