

# RECENTLY PUBLISHED RESEARCH

- Baeten JM, Palanee-Phillips T, Brown ER, **Schwartz K**, Soto-Torres LE, Govender V, Mgodini NM, Matovu Kiweewa F, Nair G, Mhlanga F, Siva S, Bekker LG, Jeenaarain N, Gaffoor Z, Martinson F, Makanani B, Pather A, Naidoo L, Husnik M, Richardson BA, Parikh UM, Mellors JW, Marzinke MA, Hendrick CW, van der Straten A, Ramjee G, Chirenje ZM, Nakabiito C, Taha TE, Jones J, **Mayo A**, **Schekter R**, Berthiaume J, Livant E, Jacobson C, Ndase P, **White R**, Patterson K, Germuga D, Galaska B, Bunge K, Singh D, Szydlo DW, Montgomery ET, Mensh BS, **Torjesen K**, Grossman CI, Chakhtoura N, Nel A, Rosenberg Z, McGowan I, Hillier S, **MTN-O20-ASPIRE study team**

*Use of vaginal ring containing dapivirine for HIV-1 prevention in women.* N Engl J Med 2016 Dec; 375(22): 2121-32. [Journal Impact Factor: 59.558]

The authors conducted a Phase III clinical trial of a monthly dapivirine vaginal ring involving women between the ages of 18 and 45 in Malawi, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The ring was found to reduce the risk of HIV-1 infection by 27 percent, with an increased efficacy in subgroups with evidence of increased adherence.
- Brunie A, Chen M, Akol A**

*Qualitative assessment of the application of a discrete choice experiment with community health workers in Uganda: Aligning incentives with preferences.* Glob Health Sci Pract 2016 Dec; 4(4): 684-93. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

Discrete choice experiments are used to design incentive packages for health workers. This study used qualitative research methods to examine the appropriateness and validity of a discrete choice experiment with community health workers who have lower literacy. The results indicate that this approach can be appropriate for community health workers but requires careful design and implementation.
- Burke HM, Moret W, Field S, Chen M, Zeng Y, Seka FM**

*Assessing household economic vulnerability in HIV-affected communities in five regions of Côte d'Ivoire.* PLoS One 2016 Sep; 11(9): e0163285. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.057]

This survey was designed to identify and describe levels of household economic vulnerability in HIV-affected communities in Côte d'Ivoire and create an index for household economic intervention targeting. The authors found that the results did not cluster in ways to allow for the creation of an index, suggesting that households face numerous unique paths to vulnerability.
- Campbell OM, Calvert C, Testa A, Strehlow M, Benova L, **Keyes E**, Donnay F, Macleod D, Gabrysch S, Rong L, Ronsmans C, Sadruddin S, Koblinsky M, **Bailey P**

*The scale, scope, coverage and capability of childbirth care.* Lancet 2016 Oct; 388(10056): 2193-208. [Journal Impact Factor: 44.002]

To reduce maternal mortality, this paper reviews data from low- and middle-income countries, focusing on childbirth services. The data is presented in a way that policymakers and planners can use it to evaluate whether maternal health services are functioning to meet the needs of women in each country.
- De Baetselier I, **Taylor D, Mandala J, Nanda K**, Van Campenhout C, Agingu W, Madura L, Barsch EM, **Deese J, Van Damme L**, Crucitti T

*Verification of chemistry reference ranges using a simple method in sub-Saharan Africa.* Afr J Lab Med 2016 Oct; 5(1): a40A. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

Chemistry reference ranges are often unavailable for local populations participating in international clinical trials. This paper identifies a simple approach to defining normal hepatic and biochemistry ranges among clinical trial participants. Embedding the process early in the screening phase of a clinical trial is cost-effective and may reveal population differences that are important in classifying toxicities that occur during the trial.
- Etiaba E, Onwujekwe O, **Torpey K**, Uzochukwu B, **Chiegil R**

*What is the economic burden of subsidized HIV/AIDS treatment services on patients in Nigeria and is this burden catastrophic to households?* PLoS One 2016 Dec; 11(12): e0167117. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.057]

This paper analyses the direct and indirect costs of HIV/AIDS treatment services on patients in Nigeria. The authors found that antiretroviral treatment subsidization is not enough to eliminate the economic burdens that are incurred by HIV patients. Service decentralization to reduce travel costs and subsidies on other components of treatment should be developed and implemented.
- Evens E, Lanham M**, Murray K, Rao S, Agot K, Omanga E, Thirumurthy H

*Use of economic compensation to increase demand for voluntary medical male circumcision in Kenya: Qualitative interviews with male participants in a randomized controlled trial and their partners.* J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr 2016 Oct; 72(Suppl 4): s316-20. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.806]

As part of a trial in Kenya that found that the provision of food vouchers to men was effective in increasing medical male circumcision uptake, the authors conducted qualitative in-depth interviews with participants and their female partners to explore how these vouchers influenced their decision making. The study found that food vouchers were an effective way to address lost wages during and after medical male circumcision. This paper provides insights into how food vouchers influence decision-making about the procedure and therefore can shape efforts to create increased demand.
- Feldblum PJ, Chen PL, Fischer SJ**, Sexton CJ

*Evaluation of SMARTube to detect HIV infection before seroconversion using standard methods.* AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses 2016 Oct-Nov; 32(10-11): 1067-71. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.949]

Acute-phase HIV infection is a highly infectious period, and identification of this interval level may reduce the risk of transmission to others. In prospective studies in South Africa and Vietnam, the use of the SMARTube, a test tube pretreated with a solution designed to stimulate vigorous antibody production, allowed early identification of some but not all acute HIV infections, with a positive predictive value of 27 percent. Larger studies are needed to evaluate SMARTube as an alternative to technically challenging and costly laboratory tests.
- Fowler MG, Qin M, Fiscus SA, Currier JS, Flynn PM, Chipato T, McIntyre J, Gnanashanmugam D, Siberry GK, **Coletti AS**, Taha TE, Klingman KL, Martinson FE, Owor M, Violari A, Moodley D, Theron GB, Bhosale R, Bobat R, Chi BH, Strehlau R, Mlay P, Loftis AJ, Browning R, Fenton T, Purdue L, Basar M, Shapiro DE, Mofenson LM, IMPAACT 1077BF/1077FF PROMISE study team

*Benefits and risks of antiretroviral therapy for perinatal HIV prevention.* N Engl J Med 2016 Nov; 375(18): 1726-37. [Journal Impact Factor: 59.558]

The authors compared the efficacy and safety of antiretroviral (ART) strategies for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission among asymptomatic HIV-infected pregnant women with high CD4 counts. Triple-drug ART resulted in significantly lower rates of early HIV transmission than zidovudine alone but resulted in a higher risk of adverse outcomes. These findings emphasize the need for continued research to assess ART in pregnancy.
- Leang R, Khu NH, Mukaka M, Debackere M, Tripura R, Kheang ST, Chy S, Kak N, Buchy P, Tarantola A, Menard D, Roca-Feltrer A, Fairhurst RM, Kheng S, Muth S, **Ngak S**, Dondorp AM, White NJ, Taylor WR

*An optimised age-based dosing regimen for single low-dose primaquine for blocking malaria transmission in Cambodia.* BMC Med 2016 Oct; 14(Article No.171): 12p. [Journal Impact Factor: 8.005]

To develop primaquine formulations for pediatric use, the authors designed an easy-to-use, age-based, single low-dose primaquine regimen for patients in Cambodia. This regimen could contribute substantially to malaria elimination and requires evaluation in Cambodia and other countries with similar anthropometric characteristics.
- MacQueen KM**, Dlamini S, **Perry B, Okumu E, Sortijas S**, Singh C, Pillay D, **Majors A, Jerome S, Watson S**, Karim SA, Karim QA, Mansoor LE

*Social context of adherence in an open-label 1% tenofovir gel trial: Gender dynamics and disclosure in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.* AIDS Behav 2016 Nov; 20(11): 2682-91. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.063]

To explore the relationship between HIV prevention product adherence and gender dynamics, the authors interviewed women and their male partners in KwaZulu, South Africa. Results highlighted how negotiating product use reflected culturally defined relationship dynamics. Women should be supported in their choice about what to disclose, including whether to use such products without their partners' knowledge or acquiescence.
- Menon P, Nguyen PH, Saha KK, Khaled A, Kennedy A, **Tran LM, Sanghvi T, Hajejbhoy N, Baker J**, Alayon S, Afsana K, Haque R, Frongillo EA, Ruel MT, Rawat R

*Impacts on breastfeeding practices of at-scale strategies that combine intensive interpersonal counseling, mass media, and community mobilization: Results of cluster-randomized program evaluations in Bangladesh and Vietnam.* PLoS Med 2016 Oct; 13(10): e1002159. [Journal Impact Factor: 13.585]

This study evaluated the population-level impact of interpersonal counseling, mass media, community mobilization and policy advocacy on breastfeeding practices in Bangladesh and Vietnam. The authors found that breastfeeding practices can be improved on a large scale with intensive interventions, sustained for over five years, in diverse settings. A combination of interventions was more effective than a single intervention.
- Nguyen PH, Kim SS, **Nguyen TT, Hajejbhoy N, Tran LM**, Alayon S, Ruel MT, Rawat R, Frongillo EA, Menon P

*Exposure to mass media and interpersonal counseling has additive effects on exclusive breastfeeding and its psychosocial determinants among Vietnamese mothers.* Matern Child Nutr 2016 Oct; 12(4): 713-25. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.505]

The pathways through which behavior change interventions affect breastfeeding practices have not been well studied. This paper examines the pathways from exposure to mass media and interpersonal counseling through hypothesized psychosocial determinants (i.e., knowledge, intention, beliefs, social norms and self-efficacy) to exclusive breastfeeding practice. The findings suggest that combining different behavior change interventions leads to greater changes in psychosocial factors, which in turn positively affects breastfeeding behaviors.
- Pal K, Ngim C, Tuot S, Chhoun P, Ly C, **Chhim S**, Luong MA, Tatomir B, Yi S

*Acceptability study on HIV self-testing among transgender women, men who have sex with men and female entertainment workers in Cambodia: A qualitative analysis.* PLoS One 2016 Nov; 11(11): e0166129. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.057]

There is a high prevalence of HIV in Cambodia, but testing remains low, especially among transgender women, men who have sex with men and female entertainment workers. This study aimed to determine the acceptability of HIV self-testing among these populations. The authors found that all participants showed a high willingness to use and accept self-testing because of its privacy and convenience.
- Pettifor A, MacPhail C, Hughes JP, Selin A, Wang J, Gomez-Olive FX, Eshleman SH, Wagner RG, Mabuza W, Khoza N, Suchindran C, Mokoena I, Twine R, **Andrew P**, Townley E, Laeyendecker O, Agyei Y, Tollman S, Kahn K

*The effect of a conditional cash transfer on HIV incidence in young women in rural South Africa (HPTN 068): A phase 3, randomised controlled trial.* Lancet Glob Health 2016 Dec; 4(12): e978-88. [Journal Impact Factor: 14.722]

The authors present the results from HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) 068, a Phase III trial to assess the effect that a monthly cash transfer that is conditional on school attendance has on HIV acquisition among young women in South Africa. Results indicate that school attendance significantly reduces the risk of HIV acquisition, regardless of a conditional cash transfer. This emphasizes the importance of keeping girls in school to reduce their risk of HIV infection.
- Safren SA, Hughes JP, Mimiaga MJ, **Moore AT**, Friedman RK, Srithanaviboonchai K, Limbada M, Williamson BD, Elharrar V, Cummings V, Magidson JF, Gaydos CA, Celentano DD, Mayer KH, **HPTN 063 study team**

*Frequency and predictors of estimated HIV transmissions and bacterial STI acquisition among HIV-positive patients in HIV care across three continents.* J Int AIDS Soc 2016 Sep; 19(1): 21096. [Journal Impact Factor: 6.256]

Successful global treatment as prevention requires identifying HIV-positive individuals at high risk for transmitting HIV and offering strategies to help prevent transmission. This study found substantial estimated numbers of HIV transmissions among sexually active HIV-positive individuals in care (typically considered at lower transmission risk). This emphasizes the importance of novel treatment-as-prevention programs to support this population.
- Schivone G, **Dorflinger L, Halpern V**

*Injectable contraception: Updates and innovation.* Curr Opin Obstet Gynecol 2016 Dec; 28(6): 504-9. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.134]

Injectables are a highly effective form of contraception that is globally popular. Recent research has focused on ways to make existing injectables (such as depot-medroxyprogesterone acetate) more accessible, and develop new injectables with fewer side effects. This review focuses on new directions and approaches to the use of injectable contraception.
- Sears C, Andersson Z, Cann M**

*Referral systems to integrate health and economic strengthening services for people with HIV: A qualitative assessment in Malawi.* Glob Health Sci Pract 2016 Dec; 4(4): 610-25. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

Supporting the diverse needs of people living with HIV can reduce the barriers they face in adhering to antiretroviral treatment. This assessment compares multisectoral referral systems using paper-based or mobile tools in Malawi. Participants reported improved health and nutrition and an ability to save money in both scenarios. Future referral networks should consider limiting the number of service options.
- Sprung B, Froschl M**

*Organization Spotlight: Right from the Start in the Digital Age: A new challenge for teachers and parents of children in grades K-3.* Child Educ 2016 Sep-Oct; 92(5): 405-8. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

Teasing and bullying have expanded from the classroom to the internet. Because communicating digitally is becoming the norm, developing good net citizenship is a new focus for early childhood education. This paper documents the problem, discusses the role of social-emotional learning and highlights the need for developing strategic partnerships with early childhood organizations, teacher educators and producers of children's media.
- Stalter R, Chen M, Uwizeye G**, Mutunge E, Ahayo A, Mugwaneza P, **Shumbusho F, Wesson J**

*Association of sexual risk behaviour with previous HIV testing among voluntary HIV counselling and testing clients in Kigali, Rwanda.* Int J STD AIDS 2016 Dec; 27(14): 1317-25. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.300]

With more focus on repeat HIV testing of at-risk populations in Rwanda, it is important to understand whether these clients are returning for testing and if repeat testing is effective at reducing risk. The authors show that voluntary HIV counseling and testing clients who report high-risk behaviors are returning for repeat tests but that more intensive counseling may be needed to address certain sexual risk behaviors.