Abstract Preview - Step 3/4

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Abstract category: B11 CD4 testing, including point of care diagnostics

Title: Point-of-care CD4 testing leads to increased uptake of antiretroviral therapy among pregnant women in Gaza Province, Mozambique

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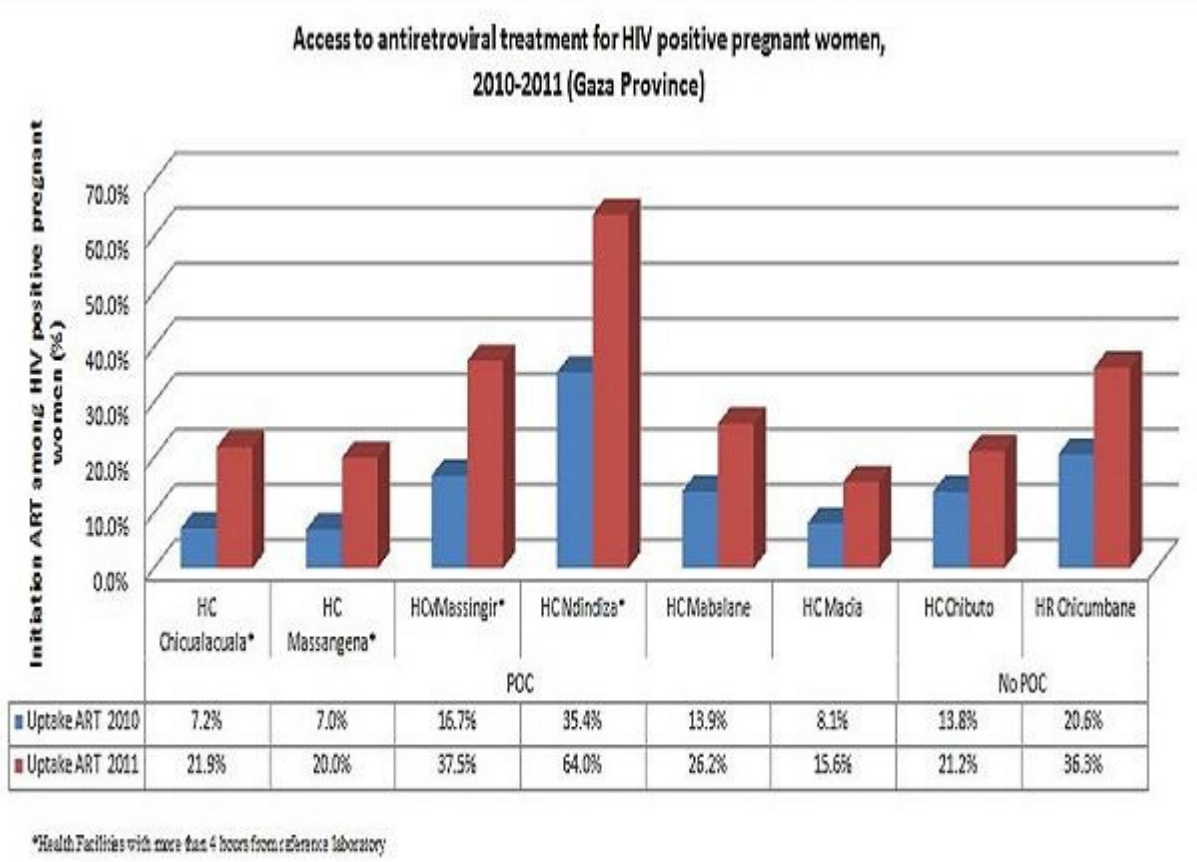
Background: The prevalence of HIV among pregnant women in Gaza Province, Mozambique, is 21%. This was the first province in the country to implement routine point-of-care (POC) CD4 testing. Placement of POC CD4 instruments was based on a scoring matrix to select health facilities (HF), where criteria such as HIV prevalence, distance from reference CD4 laboratory and ART coverage were used. Nine HF initiated POC CD4 testing in 2011.

Methods: Routine data from eight EGPAF-supported health facilities were analyzed. ART initiation among pregnant women was compared prior to (2010) and after (2011) the introduction of POC CD4 testing. Six facilities provided POC CD4 testing while two facilities continued to send samples to a reference laboratory. Significance tests were conducted using STATA (V11).

Results: A total of 20,538 first antenatal visits were registered (9017 in 2010; 11,521 in 2011). Among 17,276 women tested for HIV, 1950/9794 tested positive in 2010 and 1460/7482 in 2011. The median ART initiation rate among pregnant women in all eight health facilities was 15.3% (7.0%-35.4%) in 2010 and 30.4% (15.6%-64.0%) in 2011. ART initiation rate was greater ($p < 0.05$, Kruskall Wallis) in facilities with POC CD4 testing, with a relative increase of 111% (16.1%±11.6 to 33.9±18.1) compared to 72% (14.2%±6.2 to 24.4%±10.7) in facilities without POC (Figure 1).

Conclusions: Significantly higher increase in ART initiation for pregnant women is seen in HF using CD4 POC technology. In the context of PMTCT, POC CD4 testing is important to increase ART uptake among eligible women, and contribute to the elimination of vertical transmission of HIV.



[ART uptake among HIV-positive pregnant women]

Country of research: Mozambique

Related to women and girls: Yes

Related to children: No

Towards an No

HIV Cure Symposium:	
Ethical research declaration:	Not applicable