

Utilization of Rapid HIV-1 Testing for Women in Labour with unknown HIV Status.

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Background

In Hong Kong, women attending antenatal clinics are universally screened for HIV since 2001. Acceptance has been high but in recent years HIV status was unknown in up to 12% of women at time of delivery. Use of rapid HIV test could possibly reduce this proportion and the resulting missed opportunities for the prevention of perinatal HIV transmission.

Methods

In January 2008 rapid HIV testing was implemented at Hong Kong public obstetric units. We analyzed data collected from public hospitals, 01 January through 31 December 2008, to assess utilization of this new HIV testing practice.

Results

There were 41064 deliveries, of which 40104 (98%) had documented HIV status from routine universal antenatal HIV testing. Of the 960 women with unknown status and thus eligible for rapid HIV testing 787 (82%) were approached for testing, 722 (92%) consented. Taking into consideration one invalid result, all other cases were reported HIV negative by rapid test and no false negative results were found when compared to conventional HIV testing.

Conclusions

Utilization of rapid HIV testing at Hong Kong public obstetric units contributed to improving the proportion of patients with known HIV status before delivery. In 2008 a record 99.4% woman had HIV status known before delivery.