International Conference on Women Health

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Delays in the decision to seek care and associated factors among women in Ethiopia: Systematic review and meta-analysis 2024

Abstract

Cervical cancer is a common cancer worldwide, with > 85% of deaths occurring in Lower- and Middle- Income countries where resources for screening programs are limited. Women living with HIV (WLHIV) are at increased risk. HPV test-and-treat is a screening strategy where women with HPV are offered ablative treatment of the cervix to reduce the risk of invasive cancer. WLHIV tend to have more extensive cervical lesions, necessitating more specialised surgical treatments. ACTG A5282 enrolled women with cervical lesions inappropriate for ablative treatment. Loop electro-excision procedure was performed if high-grade lesions (bHSIL) were present on cervical biopsies. The Clopper-Pearson exact method for the proportion of WLHIV with lesions inappropriate for cryotherapy. Logistic regression models were used to assess the factors associated with these lesions. Of 1046 women screened, 17% (179/1046, 95% CI 14.9–19.4%) had cervical lesions inappropriate for cervical ablation. hrHPV was found more commonly among women having lesions inappropriate for ablative therapy as compared to lesions appropriate for ablative therapy (70% vs 54%, p < .001). Cervical lesions inappropriate for ablative therapy were common among WLHIV. This has implications for cervical cancer programs as these lesions can only be optimally treated with more specialized surgical therapies.

Biography: Dr. Rosie Mngqibisa (MBChB, PGDip HIVMAN, MPH) is the Director and clinical research site leader of the Enhancing Care Foundation (ECF), a non-profit organization focused on international research, health systems strengthening, and capacity building in underserved communities.

A dedicated advocate for equity in healthcare, with almost 20 years of experience of leading impactful research, her work centers on improving outcomes for women, adolescents, and people living with HIV throughout their lifespan. Her key interests and focus areas include:

- Research involving novel and cost-effective ART and TB treatments
- Drug interaction studies involving ART, TB medications, and contraceptives
- Safe and effective ART regimens for pregnant and postpartum women in sub-Saharan Africa
- Reproductive health outcomes of women living with HIV, including menopause and aging-related comorbidities
- Affordable STI and HPV screening tools to reduce the burden of cervical cancer
- Community-based awareness and screening initiatives targeting early detection of cervical cancer in hard-to-reach populations

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