

# Reproductive Health

---

Riikka Teperi, RN, Sexual Therapist

Finland







# HIV care in Finland

---



# Total number of diagnosed HIV cases in Finland = 3638 (100-200 new cases per year)

---

1980 - first HIV case

1983 - first female HIV case

Before 1999 - 40-80 cases per year

From 2000 onwards

- 100 - 200 new cases per year (of which 40 – 70 are female)

1980 – 2016:

Men: 2650 – 73 %

Women: 988 – 27%

(Foreign women – 264)



# Deliveries by HIV+ women 1993 - 2013

---



## Deliveries in HUCH:

- 1993-99 – 26 deliveries
- 2000-2010 – 109 deliveries
- 2011-2013 – 53 (2016 - total in a moment over 250)

(Tampere: before 2013 -20 deliv. After 2016 22 = 42)

## Type of deliveries in HUCH 2006 – 2013

- 115 Vaginal deliveries 77%
- Caesarian deliveries 23 % - ( with 8%- emergency)
- Others ( 15%) : obstructive reasons, because of HIV or HCV- big transmission risk by viruses)



# Treatment of HIV+ women in fertile age - nurse's role

---

- 1) Giving correct information
- 2) Helping reach realistic understanding of
  - Pregnancy
  - Childbirth
  - Rearing a childwhen HIV positive
- 3) Encouraging women to their dreams
- 4) Helping to plan ahead
  - Living in a relationship
  - Becoming a mother



# Gynecological follow-up of HIV+ women

---

## Goals:

- effective contraception,
- Identifying abnormal pap smears
- Identifying other gynecological symptoms

## Every new HIV+ woman referred to gynecologist

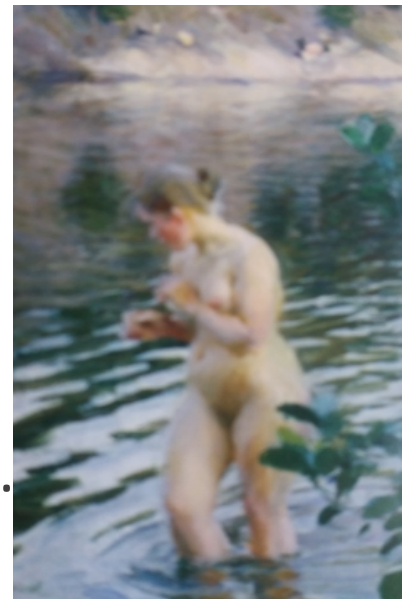
- Gynecological history and status
- first Pap smear, next after 6 months, then once a year.

Gynecology control visit every 1-3 years

Risk of abnormal pap smears 2,9-5 % bigger among HIV + women.

Other risk factors:

Smoking, HPV- infection, bacterial vaginosis, STD's, low CD4- cells.



# Contraception

---

Aim: All HIV+ women's pregnancies are planned.

Contraception:

\*First choice is hormonal intrauterine device. (HUCH gives free them to HIV patients.)

- does not change HIV medication effectiveness
- does not induce higher HI- virus counts in the genital tract

Other good options:

- Copper intrauterine device
- Subdermal contraceptive capsule



# How we treat- teamwork at HUCH

(Helsinki University Central Hospital)

---

## Infectious disease polyclinic-

- HIV follow-up and care co-ordination during / after pregnancy

## Ob & Gyn clinic

- antenatal follow-up, childbirth

## Pediatric clinic

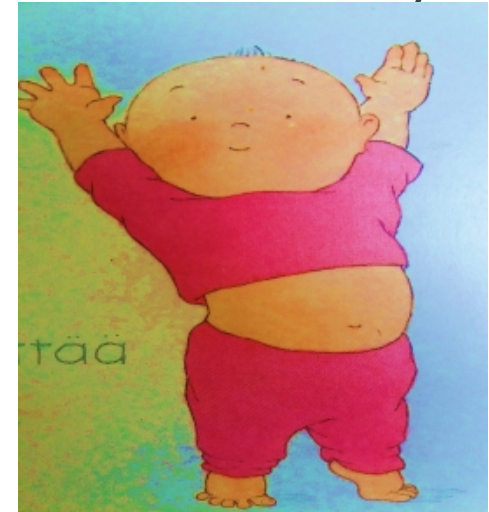
- meeting women & family before delivery
- information to mothers and obstetrics dep. Personnel about newborn medication.
- 2 year follow up

Co-ordination meetings every 6 weeks

HIV+ pregnant women also use same community based mother-child health centers as other women

---

So far, more than 300 babies to HIV+ women in Finland. ( 250 in Helsinki)



In Finland only one baby born with HIV

- Mother had few contacts with healthcare during pregnancy, first early pregnancy HIV test negative, was not tested later



# Planning for pregnancy

---

1) Both woman and man HIV+, no drug resistant virus strains  
- normal intercourse.

2a ) HIV+ woman, HIV- man

- start HIV medication to women before pregnancy
- teach to identify ovulation time

- Home insemination. 'Mumincup` - syringe treatment. (If sperm taken from condom, condoms without spermicide used)





# Planning for pregnancy

---

## 2b) HIV- woman, HIV+ man

- HIV medication for the woman at least 6 months, (tenofovir+emtricitabine combination, coitus during ovulation time).

After pregnancy started, condom to be used.

Alternative:

-Spermwash -> insemination

- Not done routinely in Finland.
- Before treatment, fertility of both woman and man need to
- Very complicated, expensive.



# HIV+ women and pregnancy

---

\*Ensure optimal HIV medication

\*Start medication as soon as possible.

\* If poor medication adherence, start DOT. (Directly Observed Therapy)

\*HIV virus load control 1-2 times in a 2 months, copies need to be <20.

\*Glucose tolerance test recommended

\*No breast feeding- big issue, need to talk

\* Very important to have a control visit at week (34)- 36

- planning the type of delivery

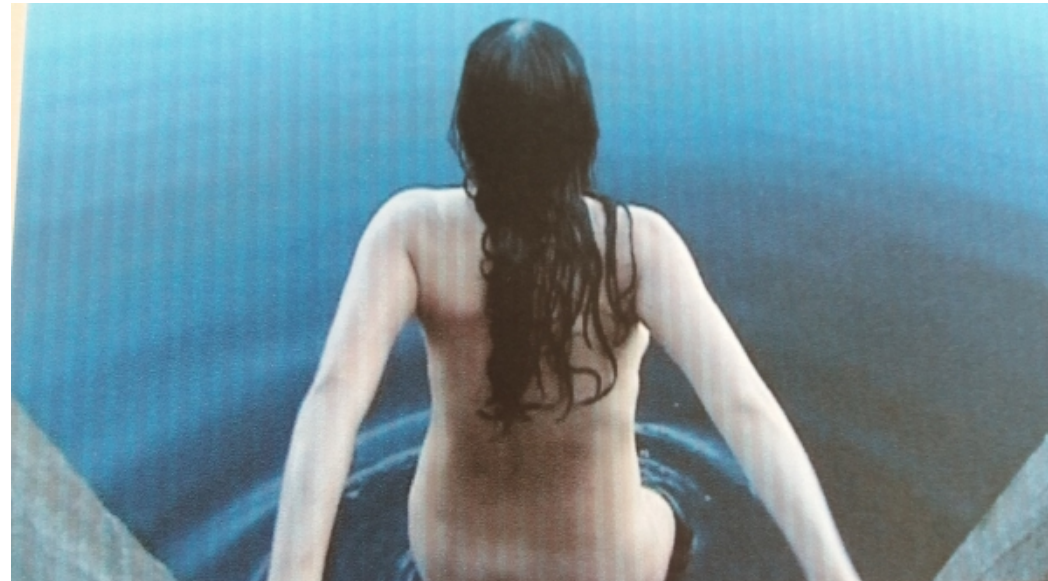
- Vaginal birth is the primary choice

# HIV+ woman and delivery

---

- \* If HIV virus load  $> 200$  elective cesarean section at week 38.
- \* In other cases vaginal delivery
- \* Zidovudine infusion during the pregnancy (in cesarean delivery start 3 hrs before).
- \* Avoid invasive procedures

\*If woman hasn't been attending a prenatal clinic, and no HIV test has been done, while there is strong suspicion of HIV infection :  
start same zidovudine protocol as above, but immediately



# Follow-up of children to HIV+ women

---

\* Before delivery:

\* Meeting with mother, medication planning

\* New born baby:

\* Big blood count, check there are no contra-indications to start medication, no breast feeding.

\* HI –virus load

\* 2 days old baby:

\* Big blood count (anemia, symptoms of primary infection).

\* 3 weeks time:

\* Plan to stop HIV medication in week 4



# Follow-up of children to HIV+ women

---

\* 2 months:

\* Big blood count, HI- virus load.  
Symptoms?

\* 4 months:

\* HI-virus load, (big blood count).

If HI- virus load x 3 neg. child is not infected. Give a BCG vaccination.

\* 18 months:



\* HIV AgAb antibodies have disappeared stop the follow up, take a contact when is needed.

# Menopause

---

- \* HIV+ women reach menopause earlier than average women
- \* Hormonal replacement therapy (HRT): same goals as among other women
- \* Because HIV medication might reduce treatment effect, possible need to increase the dose
- \* Sexuality should be discussed with women of all ages







KIITOS!