CONTROLLING THE HIV EPIDEMIC WITH ANTIRETROVIRALS

From Consensus to Implementation

22-24 September 2013
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London
Implementing TasP
Country perspective
Pr François DABIS
When to start ART: Consequences of the evolving recommendations

Estimated millions of people eligible for ART in lower & middle-income countries in 2011

- **CD4 ≤ 200**
  - Recommended Since 2002

- **CD4 ≤ 350**
  - + TB/HIV HBV/HIV

- **CD4 ≤ 350**
  - + Expanded CD4 independent conditions

- **CD4 ≤ 500**
  - "Test and treat"
  - All HIV+

ART regardless of CD4 count for:
- HIV-SD couples
- Pregnant women
2013 WHO guidelines
Consolidation along the continuum of care

HIV Testing → General HIV Care and Prevention → Initiating ART → Monitoring (toxicity & ART response) → 2nd Line → 3rd Line

Operational and service delivery

CONTROLLING THE HIV EPIDEMIC WITH ANTIRETROVIRALS
From Consensus to Implementation
From 2013 WHO guidelines to Treatment as Prevention (TasP)
Consolidation along the continuum of care will remain the cornerstone

Operational and service delivery

Effectiveness = reduction in HIV transmission
Treatment as Prevention (TasP)
Consolidation along the continuum of care

HIV Testing → General HIV Care and Prevention → Initiating ART → Monitoring (toxicity & ART response) → 2nd Line → 3rd Line

Operational and service delivery

Effectiveness = reduction in HIV transmission
HIV counselling & testing (C&T): How?

- Provider-initiated C&T systematic review: wide variation and mixed results in identifying previously undiagnosed individuals (Roura M. AIDS, 2013)
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- **Home-based C&T** systematic review: High uptake of testing (88%) and of delivery of test result (77%) (Sabapathy K. PLoS Med, 2012)
HIV counselling & testing (C&T): How?

- **Provider-initiated C&T** systematic review: wide variation and mixed results in identifying previously undiagnosed individuals (Roura M. AIDS, 2013)

- **Home-based C&T** systematic review: High uptake of testing (88%) and of delivery of test result (77%) (Sabapathy K. PLoS Med, 2012)

- **Community-based C&T** (outside health facilities) works in all sorts of settings, with various approaches and for different target groups including those with high CD4 counts (Suthar AB. PLoS Med, 2013)
C&T effects

- C&T improves HIV-related risk behavior (Fonner VA. Cochrane Database Syst Rev, 2012)

- C&T « modestly » reduces acquisition of HIV (ACCEPT HPTN 043. CROI, 2013)
C&T effects

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- C&T is a pre-requisite to ARV-based biomedical prevention such as TasP +++
Treatment as Prevention (TasP)
Consolidation along the continuum of care

1. HIV Testing
2. General HIV Care and Prevention
3. Initiating ART
4. Monitoring (toxicity & ART response)
5. 2nd Line
6. 3rd Line

Operational and service delivery

Effectiveness = reduction in HIV transmission

CONTROLLING THE HIV EPIDEMIC WITH ANTIRETROVIRALS
From Consensus to Implementation
Rate of transmission per 100 person-years
0.0 to 0.14 per 100 (upper limit of 95% CI: 0.31)
Effectiveness – Recent advances (2)


- Behavioral study nested within a RCT of early ART (ANRS 12 136 Temprano)
- Estimated protective effect of early ART: 90% (95% CI: 81 - 95%)
High Coverage of ART Associated with Decline in Risk of HIV Acquisition in Rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

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**ART coverage, 2004-2011**  
**Tanser F. Science, 2013**

- **ART coverage** = proportion of the total HIV-infected population receiving ART at <200 then <350 CD4 cells/µl

- → >20 000 patients

- Spatial analysis using a standard Gaussian kernel of radius 3km
Adjusted HIV acquisition hazard by ART coverage category adjusted for age and sex (A) and for all variables (B)

Tanser F. Science, 2013
Treatment as Prevention (TasP)
Consolidation along the continuum of care

- HIV Testing
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Operational and service delivery

Effectiveness = reduction in HIV transmission
Operational and service delivery

- Health system concerns: health care seeking, retention in care

- Resources constraints: financial, human, organization

- Behavioral concerns: risk compensation
Behavioural concerns

- Will there be risk compensation with early ART?

- The overall evidence in sub-Saharan Africa has been limited so far (Venkatesh KK. AIDS, 2011) and did not favor this hypothesis
Will there be risk compensation with early ART?

Most recent findings (a)

- In rural KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, no evidence of increased sexual risk-taking in the general population during ART scale up; condom use with regular sexual partner increased and proportion with multiple sexual partners decreased.

McGrath N. AIDS, 2013.
Will there be risk compensation with early ART?

Most recent findings (b)

- In Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, risky sex was reported by 10% of those on early ART vs 12.8% in those on standard ART (p=0.17) - Jean K. J Infect Dis, in press.
Treatment as Prevention (TasP)
The need for high-level evidence of feasibility, efficiency and effectiveness

- HIV Testing
- General HIV Care and Prevention
- Initiating ART
- Monitoring (toxicity & ART response)
- 2nd Line
- 3rd Line

Operational and service delivery

Effectiveness = reduction in HIV transmission
TasP RCTs (as of September 2013)

- 4 in Africa:
  
  ANRS 12 249 TasP (South Africa)
  
  HPTN 071 PopART (South Africa & Zambia)
  
  CDC BCPP (Botswana)
  
  SEARCH (Uganda & Kenya)

- 1 in the US:
  
  HPTN 065 TLC-Plus (Washington DC & Bronx NY)
ANRS 12 249

Treatment as Prevention (TasP)

Update (September 2013)

See also Poster # 48
ANRS 12 249 TasP
A cluster randomised trial in Hlabisa sub-district, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

http://mereva.net/tasp

TasP Phase 1 aims

- Provide sufficient guarantees in terms of acceptability and feasibility of the TasP intervention at individual and community level as well as on the parameters used to estimate the trial sample size to continue the trial and decide how to do so.
TasP trial design (1/2)

- Cluster-randomised controlled trial
- **Component 1**: Full prevention and HIV testing strategy in both the intervention and control arms
  - Current range of community and clinic HIV testing options **AND**
  - Implementation of **regular** (6 months, then 4 months) rounds of **home-based** HIV testing
  - Comprehensive set of preventive services:
    - IEC, condom distribution, circumcision services, syndromic management of STIs and post-exposure prophylaxis, family planning
TasP trial design (2/2)

Component 2: For all HIV-infected adult individuals identified:

**Control Arm**
- Offer ART according to national guidelines (currently)
  - All patients with CD4 < 350 cells/mm³, WHO clinical stage 3 or 4 or MDR/XDR Tb

**Intervention Arm**
- Offer universal immediate ART initiation
TasP setting: Hlabisa subdistrict (KZN, SA)

- 1 430 km²
- Approx. 220 000 Zulu-speaking people
- 24% overall HIV prevalence
## Progress - Feasibility (September 2013)

**Round 1 – Ten clusters**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status within trial, n(%)</th>
<th>Sample size/model assumptions, n(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered</td>
<td>11 537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contacted</td>
<td>8 347 (72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>7 865 (94)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV status ascertained</td>
<td>6 465 (82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV positive</td>
<td>1 965 (30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seen in TasP clinic</td>
<td>912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seen in DoH clinic</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total linked to care</td>
<td>1422 (72)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TasP in the field - Concluding remarks (1)

- A terminology dilemma:
  
  **Treatment as Prevention**

  **Treat as soon as Possible**

  Universal Test & Treat (UTT) / TTU
TasP in the field - Concluding remarks (2)

TasP will happen, but

- How? The operational research questions around the continuum of care
  - Who will pay?
  - When?
2014-2015: Feasibility and acceptability of TasP will be documented in Africa

2015-2017: Effectiveness (?)
Acknowledgments

Abstinence
Be faithful
Condom
(male) Circumcision
Counselling & Testing
Microbicides
Post-exposure prophylaxis
Pre-exposure prophylaxis
Sexually transmitted infections control
(antiretroviral) Treatment (TasP)
Vaccine
Health care seeking is largely motivated by symptoms: how to increase treatment uptake in early disease stages?
Health system concerns (1)

- Health care seeking is largely motivated by symptoms: how to increase treatment uptake in early disease stages?

- Home treatment initiation
  (MacPherson P. Malawi. CROI, 2013)

- Social marketing campaigns
- Financial incentives to register in care
- Build proximity health posts
- Mobile health teams
- Free transportation to health facilities
- Retention in care and treatment could be motivated by symptoms: how to maintain retention and adherence in early disease stages?
Health system concerns (2)

- Retention in care and treatment could be motivated by symptoms: how to maintain retention and adherence in early disease stages?

- Define loss to follow-up

- Monitor closely program retention (early detection)

- Document interventions of validated effectiveness, e.g. text messaging +++
  Horvath T. Cochrane Database Syst Rev, 2012 (2 RCTs in Kenya – improved adherence: 22%)
- Is there a risk of undesirable resource allocation (« crowding out »)?
- Is there a risk of undesirable resource allocation (« crowding out »)?

This is not an argument against TasP but against TasP without sufficient resources.
Resource constraints (2)

- Task-shifting is efficient (Stretch, South Africa. Lancet, 2012)

- Other sources of efficiency gains can be sought

... but will this be sufficient???
Resource constraints (2)

- Task-shifting is efficient (Stretch, South Africa. Lancet, 2012)

- Other sources of efficiency gains can be sought

... but will this be sufficient???

Human resources capacity may simply be lacking without major training efforts of qualified health workers
Resource constraints (3)

- Universal programs, vertically structured or fully integrated?

versus highly specialized programs targeting key populations?

The need for implementation studies documenting where and how efficiency is maximized
TasP overall primary objective

- To directly estimate the effect of ART initiated immediately after the diagnosis of infection and irrespective of CD4 count criteria in people not yet eligible for ART on the incidence of new HIV infections in the general population in the same setting.
TasP Phase 1 specific objectives

• Among all participants:
  – To estimate the acceptability and feasibility three times over a 14-month period of providing repeat HIV testing to all adult members of a community

• Among HIV-infected participants:
  – To estimate entry into care and ART, retention, morbidity/mortality, TB, virological failure, quality of life, etc. over a 7 to 19-month follow-up period

• Within the health system:
  – To appreciate the challenges faced by the health care system and health care professionals in providing the trial intervention
TasP clusters

- 34 communities/clusters
- Stratified on the basis of predicted HIV prevalence
- Randomly allocated in equal measure to control and intervention communities (17:17)
  - Phase 1: in 4 (striped on map) then 10 clusters
  - 1,000 participants per cluster, 800 HIV-neg
Phase 1 is ongoing

• Clusters # 1 & 2 opened: March 2012
• Clusters # 3 & 4 opened: July 2012
• Clusters # 5 to 10 opened: January to August 2013