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(ACA) **LI Meeting** of the Advisory Council on AIDS

2:30 pm 22 July 2005

(CPA) **XVI Meeting** of the Committee on Promoting Acceptance of People Living with HIV/AIDS

2:30 pm 13 July 2005

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Web site: <http://www.aca-hk.com>

Highlights of the Universal Antenatal HIV Testing (UAT) Programme in Hong Kong

To prevent new born babies from contracting HIV through their infected mothers, the UAT programme has begun

since September 2001. All pregnant women attending public antenatal services have been offered voluntary HIV antibody testing. For HIV positive pregnant women, medical and obstetrical care will be provided for them.

From 1 September 2001 to 31 December 2004, there were

altogether 160,878 deliveries and the number of pregnant women having the HIV antibody testing was 120,655. 28 pregnant women were detected HIV positive from the same period of time. The results of their pregnancies were as follows:

	2001 (Sep to Dec)	2002	2003	2004
TOTAL	7	9	6	6
Termination of pregnancy	3	3	3	1
Delivered by Caesarean Section	3	5	3	3
Delivered by Vaginal delivery	1	0	0	0
Loss of follow-up	0	1*	0	2*
ART prescription in known delivered pregnancies, No. (%)	3 (75%)	5 (100%)	3 (100%)	3 (100%)
3 part ART	3 (75%)	5 (100%)	3 (100%)	2 (66.7%)
intrapartum and neonatal only	0	0	0	0
neonatal only	0	0	0	1 (33.3%)
HIV status of babies born				
Negative	3	5	1	0
Positive	1	0	0	0
Pending	0	0	2	2
Unknown	0	0	0	1**

* Did not turn up for follow-up before delivery

** Did not turn up for follow-up after delivery



Research
Corner

Time to consider HIV/HBV co-infection

Wong KH, Lee SS, Chan KCW. Screen for underlying HIV before antiviral treatment for HBV. J Infect. 2005 Jun 2; [Epub ahead of print]

Wong et al, of the Integrated

Treatment Centre reported an HIV/HBV co-infected patient whose HIV therapy was compromised because of lamivudine (3TC) treatment for HBV before he was diagnosed HIV positive. The 3TC monotherapy had led to HIV resistance before he could fully benefit from his first highly active antiretroviral therapy.

Management of HIV/HBV co-infection has become one most challenging clinical issue nowadays. Indeed, HBV/HIV

co-infected patients should have both infections fully evaluated to determine the best treatment option covering both. The case underscores the importance of identifying underlying HIV in co-infected patients before treating HBV. The authors suggested that optimal HIV screening strategy in localities with different HBV endemicity and HIV prevalence shall need to be further examined.

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HIV/AIDS STATISTICS IN HONG KONG					
updated 31 March 2005					
		This Quarter		Cumulative	
		HIV	AIDS	HIV	AIDS
Sex	Male	55	3	2072	623
	Female	10	2	505	100
Ethnicity	Chinese	43	4	1785	564
	Non-Chinese	22	1	792	159
Route of Transmission	Sexual Contacts	41	4	2008	641
	Heterosexual	22	3	1396	490
	Homosexual	16	1	504	121
	Bisexual	3	0	108	30
	Injecting drug use	6	0	92	13
	Blood/blood products recipients	1	0	69	20
	Perinatal	0	0	15	6
	Undetermined	17	1	393	43
	Total	65	5	2577	723

APCC Meeting

The AIDS Prevention and Care Committee (APCC) met on 17 June 2005 at its 20th meeting. There were three main items on the agenda.

(A) Dr WONG Sing-wing, Dennis, Associate Professor of the Department of Applied Social Studies, City University of Hong Kong was invited to present the “Casebook of HIV/AIDS Services & Program Evaluation”. Dr Wong was the principal investigator of a professional consultancy team formed with the funding support from the AIDS Trust Fund to provide training and professional support in programme evaluation to personnel involved in HIV/AIDS programmes and projects. The casebook recorded the investigation results of common practices of programme evaluation adopted by agencies involved in HIV/AIDS prevention and care activities and collected a

number of existing and good practices of HIV/AIDS activities. He shared with members the evaluation methods and the use of indicators for measuring effectiveness of the projects. It was concluded that there would be a need to further encourage HIV/AIDS agencies to pay more attention to programme evaluation of their projects.

(B) On the report of a pilot study of using OraQuick HIV – 1/2 rapid test in AIDS Counselling and Testing Service, Ms CHEUNG Man-ting, Georgiana, acting senior nursing officer of the Department of Health was asked to give members the results of a pilot study examining the feasibility and client satisfaction of applying OraQuick HIV 1/2 rapid test from February to May 2004. 320 subjects were recruited to participate in the study. Members were concerned about the false negative rapid test result and the counseling

services for clients. They also gave their views on how to promote early testing by using rapid test.

(C) Regarding “Safer Sex Campaign 2005”, members were informed that HIV transmission through sexual contact was the commonest route in Hong Kong. Safer sex would be an effective measure to prevent HIV transmission from this route. A safer sex campaign would be held from September to December 2005.

The highlights of the campaign would include

- A launching ceremony on 4 September 2005 with new TV and radio APIs;
- A sex education forum on 25 September 2005 targeting at professionals;
- A new icon to promote the use of condom;
- A free condom distribution network; and
- A range of activities organized by AIDS NGOs in the Safer Sex Month.



The Chairperson hosted a dinner gathering for all members and guests after the meeting to show her appreciation for members' support for the past three years.

SCA Meeting



The Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA) held its 36th meeting on 28 June 2005. There were three main items on the agenda.

(A) On the Universal antenatal HIV testing Programme in Hong Kong, members were presented the results of the programme for the period from September 2001 to December 2004. On the basis of the programme data, the cost-effectiveness of the programme was also evaluated. The results of the analysis indicated that the programme was a cost-effective intervention in Hong Kong.

(B) Regarding the paper titled “Methadone clinic universal urine-based HIV antibody testing programme in its first year”, members were introduced the objectives and results of the full programme rolled out in January 2004. It was noted that a total of 34 HIV positive tests were obtained by combining the results of the three-month pilot programme in 2003 (11 positives) and the full-year programme in 2004 (23 positives). After exclusion of two repeat samples, the total number of HIV infected drug users was 32.

(C) Members noted the paper on “Unlinked anonymous screening for HIV Surveillance in Hong Kong 1997-2004”.

The Chairman thanked members for their support in the past three years and their active participation in SCA meetings and activities and informed them that a new Scientific Committee on AIDS and STI would be formed under the Scientific Advisory Structure of the Centre for Health Protection starting from August 2005.



Congratulations



Congratulations to Dr Richard TAN on his award of the Chief Executive's Commendation for Community Service in this year's Honours List and to Prof. LAM Tai-hing on his appointment as Justices of the Peace with effect from 1 July 2005.