

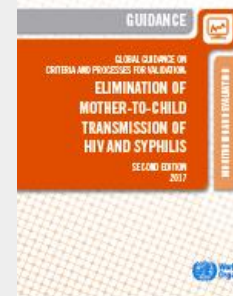


# ***TRANSMISSION OF HIV IN BREASTMILK***

Ameena Goga

Health Systems Research Unit, SA Medical Research Council  
Department of Paediatrics, University of Pretoria, SA

SAHIV Clinicians Society Conference  
24-27 October 2018



# ELIMINATING MTCT AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM: IMPACT CRITERIA

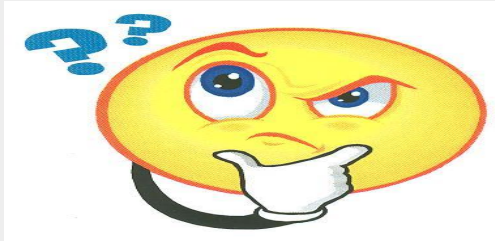
- <50 new paediatric infections per 100 000 live births
- MTCT <5% in breastfeeding populations

Both achieved for 1 year at a lowest sub-national level

# OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION



**Road travelled**



**Dilemmas**



**Infant PEP options**



**Future possibilities**

# ROAD TRAVELLED



## Breastfeeding 1



### Breastfeeding in the 21st century: epidemiology, mechanisms, and lifelong effect

*Cesar G Victora, Rajiv Bahl, Aluisio J D Barros, Giovanny V A França, Susan Horton, Julia Krusevec, Simon Murch, Mari Jeeva Sankar, Neff Walker, Nigel C Rollins, for The Lancet Breastfeeding Series Group\**

The importance of breastfeeding in low-income and middle-income countries is well recognised, but less consensus *Lancet 2016; 387: 475-90*

Never before in the history of science has so much been known about the complex importance of breastfeeding for both mothers and children

Scaling up breastfeeding to a near universal level would prevent 823 000 annual deaths in children <5 and 20 000 annual deaths from breast cancer

- Children who are breastfed for longer periods have lower infectious morbidity and mortality, fewer dental malocclusions, and higher intelligence than do those who are breastfed for shorter periods, or not breastfed. This inequality persists until later in life. Growing evidence also suggests that breastfeeding might protect against overweight and diabetes later in life.





# BREASTFEEDING

It Rocks!

### Estimated Timing and Risk of Mother-to-Child Human Immunodeficiency Type 1 Transmission without Antiretroviral Interventions and with Minimal ARV Prophylaxis

Timing	Without Antiretroviral Cover				With Minimal Antiretroviral Cover	
	No Breastfeeding		Breastfeeding through 18–24 Months		Breastfeeding through 18–24 Months	No Breastfeeding
	Relative Proportion	Absolute Rate	Relative Proportion	Absolute Rate	Absolute Rate	Absolute Rate
Intrauterine	25–35%	5–10%	20–25%	5–10%	3.5% <sup>a</sup>	<0.5% <sup>c</sup>
Intrapartum	65–75%	10–20%	35–50%	10–15%	2.6% <sup>b</sup>	
Breastfeeding	—	—	25–45%	15–20%	Cumulative risk 4% (3–6%) on triple ART or infant prophylaxis by 48 weeks <sup>d</sup>	0
Overall	—	15–30%	—	30–45%	3–6%	<0.5%

Source: De Cock, K.M. et al., *JAMA*, 283(9), 1175–82, 2000; Coutoudis, A. et al., *AIDS*, 15(3), 379–87, 2001.

Note: Population-level MTCT under 2008 PMTCT guidelines (dual prophylaxis).

<sup>a</sup> Goga et al. (2015).

<sup>b</sup> Population-level MTCT using zidovudine from 14 weeks gestation with single-dose nevirapine to mother and baby peripartum with daily infant nevirapine or maternal antiretroviral therapy if maternal CD4 cell count ≤ 350 cells/μL.

<sup>c</sup> Forbes et al. (2012), Townsend et al. (2014).

<sup>d</sup> Jamieson et al. (2012).

Published in final edited form as:

*Clin Perinatol.* 2010 December ; 37(4): 787–ix. doi:10.1016/j.clp.2010.08.005.

### Immune-Based Approaches to the Prevention of Mother-to-child-Transmission of HIV-1: Active and Passive Immunization

Barb Lohman-Payne<sup>1,2</sup>, Jennifer Slyker<sup>2</sup>, and Sarah L. Rowland-Jones<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya 00202

<sup>2</sup>Departments of Medicine and Global Health, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98104

<sup>3</sup>Nuffield Department of Medicine, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, OX3 9DS, UK

In the absence of PMTCT 55-80% of HIV exposed infants remain uninfected

Breastmilk characteristic	Protection conferred
<b>sIgA</b>	Local immunity against entry of HIV
<b>T and B lymphocytes</b>	Antiviral activity
<b>Oligosaccharides</b>	Form viral ligands to prevent mucosal entry of free HIV.
<b>Glycoconjugates</b>	
<b>α Defensins</b>	reduces risk of intrapartum and postnatal MTCT.
<b>IFN-γ cellular immune responses</b>	associated with ≈70% reduction in early MTCT

Lohman-Payne B et.al. Clin Perinatol 2010  
 Cheynier R et.al. Euro J. Immunol 1992  
 Kuhn L et.al. J Pediatr 2004

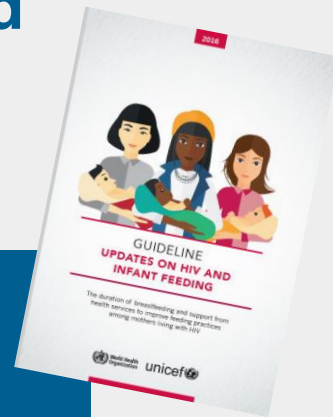
Kuhn L et.al. AIDS 2001  
 Aldhous M et.al. Clin Exp Immunol 1994  
 Bode L et.al. Am J Clin Nutr 2012



In settings where lifelong ART is provided and supported (incl. adherence counselling) and breastfeeding is promoted and supported, an HIV+ mother

- should breastfeed for at least 12 months and
- may continue breastfeeding for up to 24 months or longer (similar to the general population)
- while being fully supported for ART adherence

*(Strong recommendation; Quality of evidence: up to 12 m – Low; to 24 m – Very low)*



# Before 2011

## Individual approach:

Individual counselling of mothers living with HIV for individual decision making



It is your right to make your own choice,  
but, it is a baby's right to be fed safely.

# From 2011

## Public health approach:

National or local authorities recommend infant feeding method for children of mothers living with HIV with extended NVP/ART



## 3. RECOMMENDED INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING PRACTICES

## 3.1 The main infant and young child feeding recommendations are summarised in the table below.

Main Feeding Recommendation				
HIV-negative women	Exclusively breastfeed their infants during the first 6 months of life.	Introduce adequate, safe and appropriate complementary foods at 6 months	Continue breastfeeding for 2 years or longer.	Breastfeeding cessation needs to occur gradually over one month.  Abrupt cessation is discouraged.
HIV-positive mothers (and whose infants are HIV uninfected or of unknown HIV status)  <u>On lifelong ART</u>			Continue breastfeeding for <del>12</del> 24 months (recommended) while being fully supported for ART adherence (as outlined in the current PMTCT guidelines).  The infant should receive prophylactic ARVs <del>from birth until six weeks of age as prescribed</del> in accordance with current PMTCT guidelines.	
HIV-positive mothers (and whose infants are HIV uninfected or of unknown HIV status)  <u>Not on lifelong ART</u>			<del>Continue breastfeeding for the first 12-24 months of life (recommended) while being fully supported for ART adherence.</del>  <del>The mother and/or infant should receive ARVs as prescribed in accordance with current PMTCT guidelines. This should continue for one week after all breastfeeding has stopped.</del>  <b>This section is no longer relevant as all HIV-infected women should receive ART.</b>	
HIV-positive mothers and whose infants are HIV infected			Continue breastfeeding for 2 years or longer while being fully supported for ART adherence for mother and infant.	

HEADS OF PROVINCIAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS  
PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT MCHW, EPI, NUTRITION, HAST AND PMTCT MANAGERS  
DISTRICT CLINICAL, SPECIALIST TEAMS  
DISTRICT AND PHC MANAGERS  
HEALTH FACILITY MANAGERS

CIRCULAR MINUTE NO. 3 OF 2017/18 HIV/AIDS, TB & MCHW

AMENDMENT OF THE 2013 INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING (IYCF) POLICY

The 2013 Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) policy recommendation on the duration of breastfeeding for HIV infected women has been amended to align with the updated 2016 WHO/UNICEF guidelines.

The policy recommendation that HIV-infected women should stop breastfeeding at 12 months is revised. HIV-infected women who are breastfeeding should be supported to adhere to antiretroviral therapy (ART), and should be counselled and supported to exclusively breastfeed their infants for the first 6 months of life, to introduce complementary foods thereafter, and to continue breastfeeding for at least 2 years (pg 14 of the IYCF policy indicating the amendment is attached). This means that infant and young child feeding recommendations for HIV negative and HIV positive mothers are fully aligned. All healthcare workers are reminded of the importance of ensuring that all pregnant and breastfeeding HIV-infected mothers receive ART, together with adherence support.

The remainder of the IYCF policy, which emphasises that breastfeeding should be protected, supported and promoted, remains unchanged.

It would be appreciated if the contents of this circular are communicated to all relevant officials.

DR Y MLLAY  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: HIV/AIDS, TB & MCHW

DATE: 01/06/17

Document approved by: Deputy Director-General: HIV/AIDS, TB & MCHW  
Approved by: Director-General: Health Services  
Approved by: Director-General: Health Services

Revised Policy - pending approval for

7 June 2017

# PROMOTING HIV-FREE SURVIVAL, THRIVING AND TRANSFORMING FOR CHILDREN

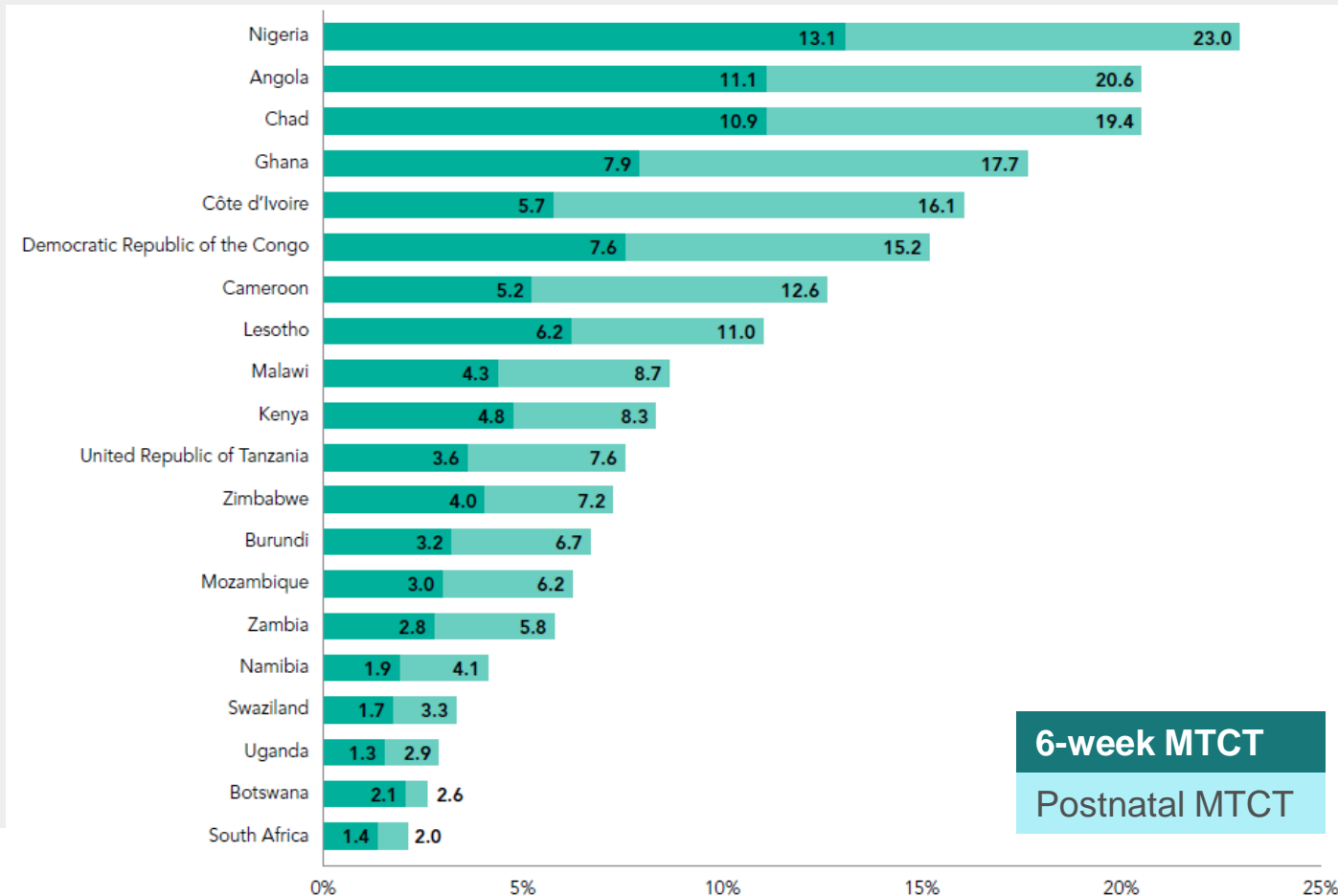


# DILEMMAS: CAN WE ELIMINATE BREASTMILK TRANSMISSION OF HIV?





# BY 2015: OVERALL MTCT HAS REDUCED, BUT BREASTMILK CONTRIBUTES TO >50% MTCT IN SOME COUNTRIES



UNAIDS: On the fast track to an AIDS free generation: <http://www.aidsdatahub.org/fast-track-aids-free-generation-unaid-2016>



## Does U=U for breastfeeding mothers and infants? Breastfeeding by mothers on effective treatment for HIV infection in high-income settings

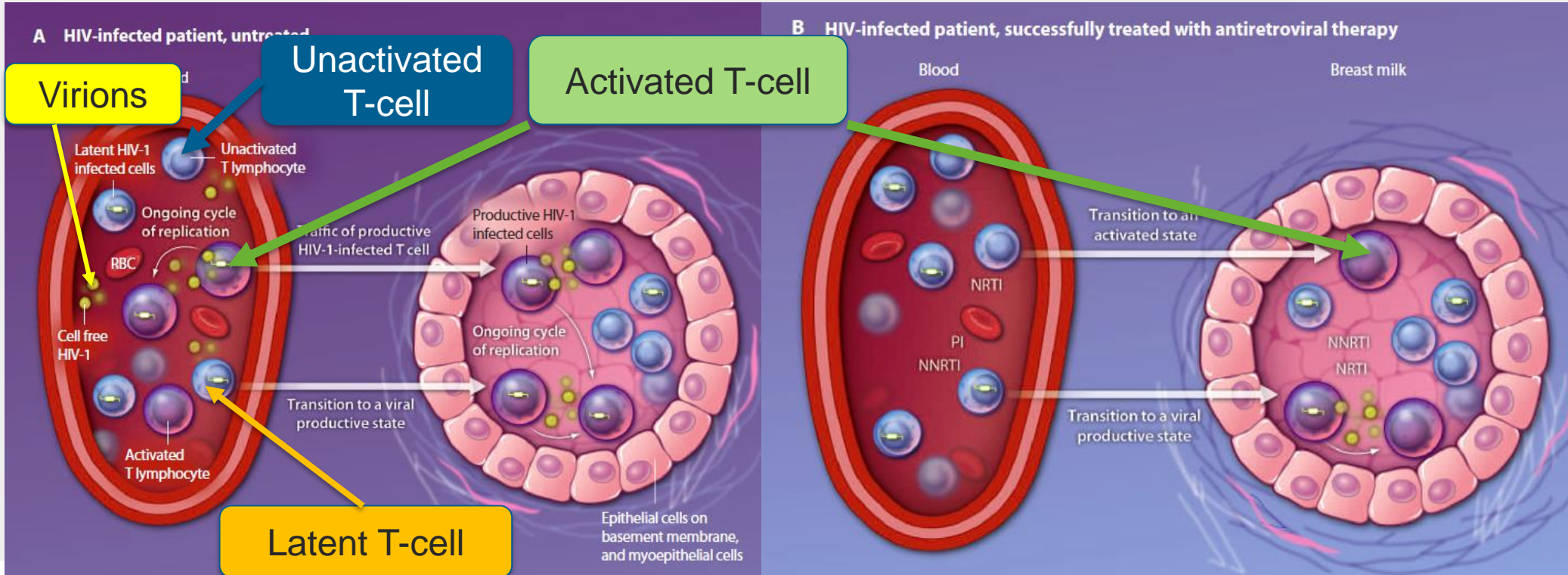


*Catriona Waitt, Nicola Low, Philippe Van de Perre, Fiona Lyons, Mona Loutfy, Karoline Aebi-Popp*

Can the campaign Undetectable=Untransmittable (U=U), established for the sexual transmission of HIV, be *Lancet HIV 2018; 5: e531-36*

**NO**

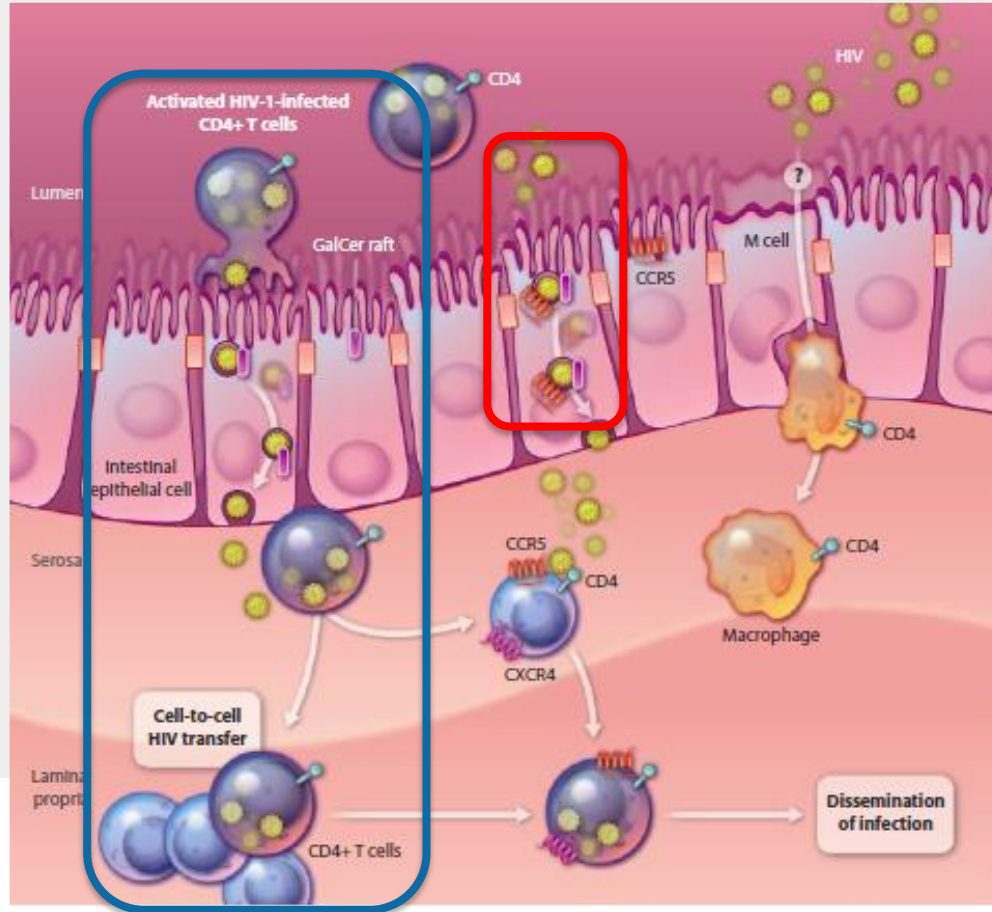
# BLOOD AND BREASTMILK OF TREATED AND UNTREATED HIV INFECTED PATIENTS



Untreated Patient

Treated Patient

# CELL-CELL TRANSFER - CENTRAL ROLE IN CELL-ASSOCIATED MTCT THROUGH GUT



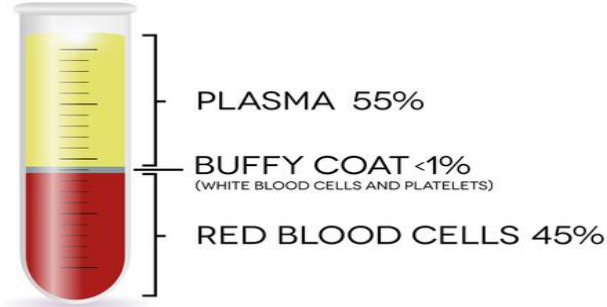
Entry of free virions and cell-associated virus

Van de Perre et.al Science  
Translational Med 2012

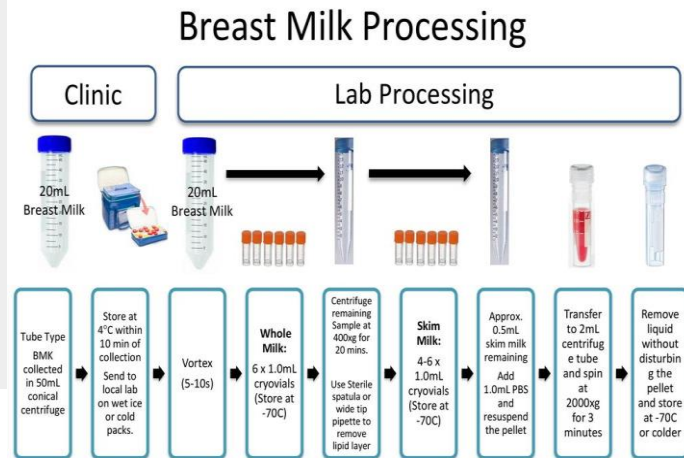
# BREASTMILK HIV TRANSMISSION

- Before 9 months postpartum, most MTCT is associated with cell-associated virus
- Breast tissue might be seeded with a lineage of latently infected resting cells
- ART typically reduces breastmilk HIV RNA but not DNA

# CONCERNS



A safe threshold of plasma and breastmilk viral load has not been established **AND** We do not routinely measure breastmilk viral load



Keep breast milk as cold as possible through ALL processing steps. Process within 6 hours of collection (>6 hrs. Note in LDMS)

# RISKS OF BREASTMILK TRANSMISSION

## UNAIDS mathematical modelling:

- Among mothers who initiated ART pre-delivery: 1 in 625 probability (0.16%) of MTCT



# MTCT WITH ART



**NIH Public Access**

**Author Manuscript**

*N Engl J Med.* Author manuscript; available in PMC 2010 December 9.

Published in final edited form as:

*N Engl J Med.* 2010 June 17; 362(24): 2282–2294. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa0907736.

## **Antiretroviral Regimens in Pregnancy and Breast-Feeding in Botswana**

R.L. Shapiro, M.D., M.P.H., M.D. Hughes, Ph.D., A. Ogwu, M.B., B.S., D. Kitch, M.S., S.

ART initiated between 26 and 34 weeks  
Plasma VL at baseline, delivery, 1, 3, 6, months  
One BM VL measurement post-hoc

# MTCT HAS BEEN REPORTED IN WOMEN WITH UNDETECTABLE BASELINE PLASMA VL

## Maternal and Breastmilk Viral Load: Impacts of Adherence on Peripartum HIV Infections Averted—The Breastfeeding, Antiretrovirals, and Nutrition Study

*Nicole L. Davis, MPH, PhD,\*†‡ William C. Miller, MD, PhD, MPH,† Michael G. Hudgens, PhD,§ Charles S. Chasela, PhD,|| Dorothy Sichali, BSc,¶ Dumbani Kayira, MBBS,¶ Julie A. E. Nelson, PhD,# Susan A. Fiscus, PhD,# Gerald Tegha, BSc,¶ Deborah D. Kamwendo, MSc,¶ Joseph Rigdon, PhD,§ Jeffrey S. A. Stringer, MD,\*\* Jonathan J. Juliano, MD, MSPH,† Sascha R. Ellington, MSPH,†† Athena P. Kourtis, MD, PhD, MPH,†† Denise J. Jamieson, MD,†† and Charles van der Horst, MD,† for the BAN study team*

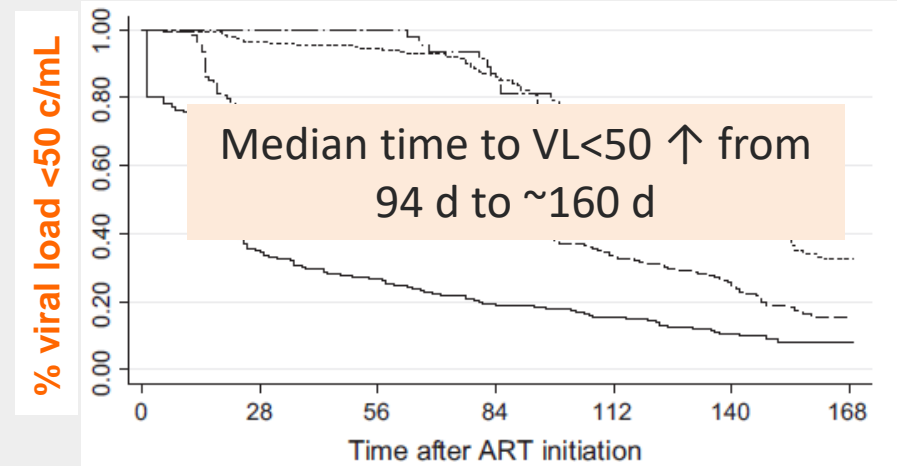
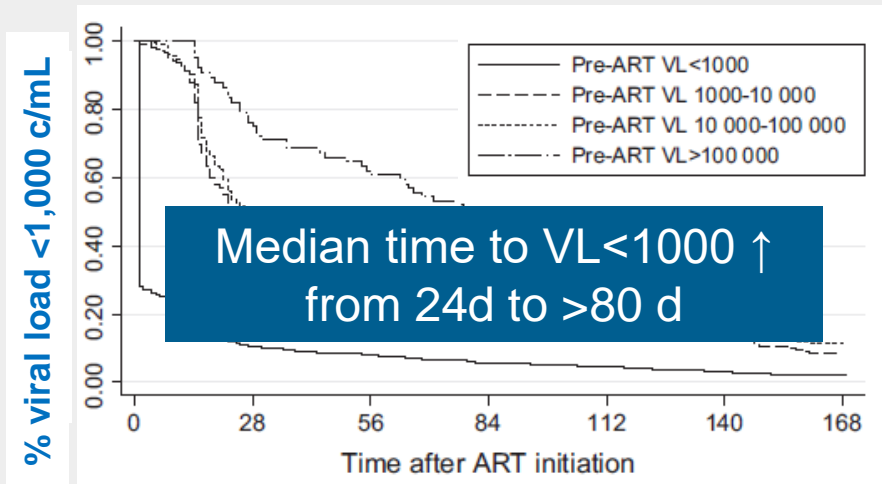
*J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr* • Volume 73, Number 5, December 15, 2016

## BAN STUDY

- ✓ Better adherence → lower breastmilk HIV RNA → lower MTCT
- ✓ 90% vs 100% ART adherence: same MTCT
- ✓ No MTCT if plasma VL consistently <100

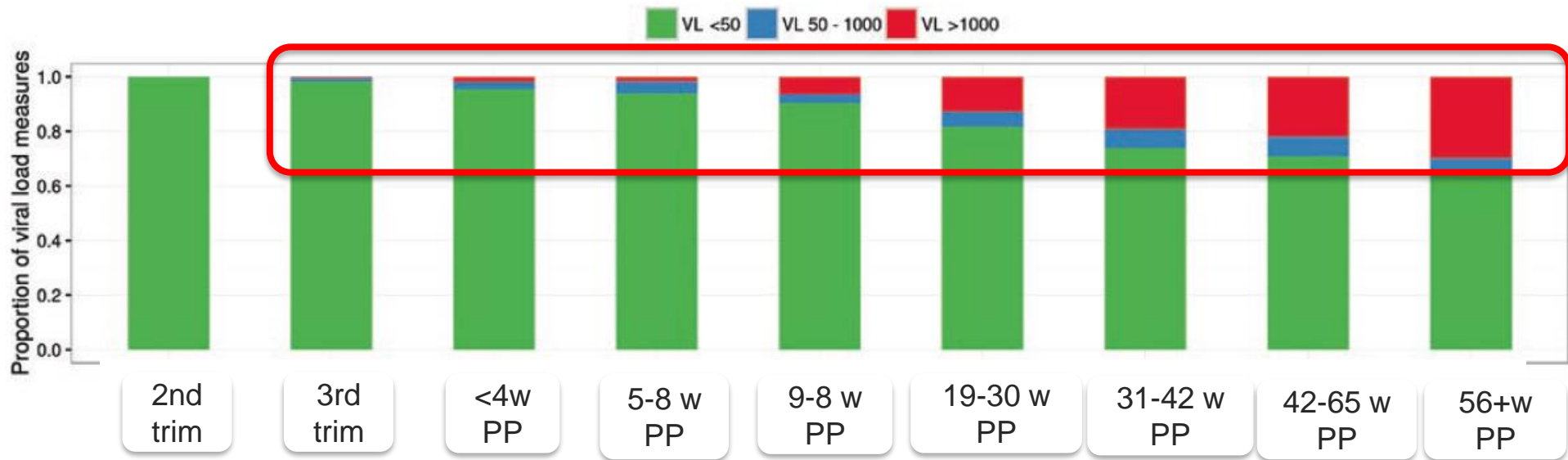
# TIME TO SUPPRESSION AFTER ART INITIATION

## If pre-ART VL > 100 000



# FREQUENCY OF VIREMIC EPISODES IN HIV-INFECTED WOMEN ACHIEVING VIRAL SUPPRESSION

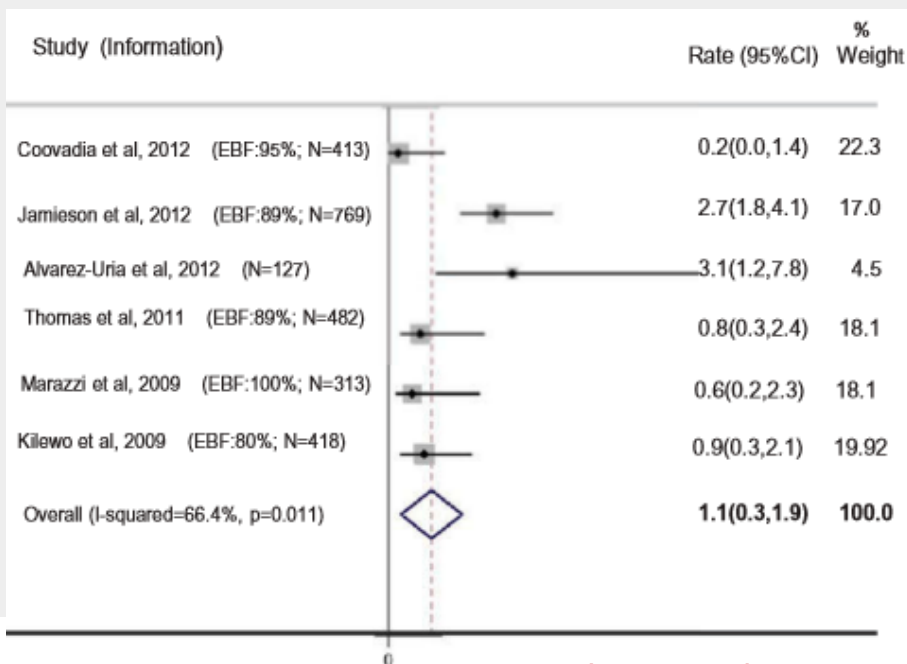
523 HIV+ women initiating antenatal ART with initial suppression. 85% breastfeeding



# POSTNATAL MTCT IN BREASTFED INFANTS OF WOMEN ON ART

11 studies - all clinical trial settings – mothers on ART for 6 months. Rapid weaning advised

Postnatal MTCT between  
4-6 weeks and 6 months: 6 studies



If maternal HIV prev is  
20% translates into  
220 new infections per  
100 000 live births

Pooled estimate: 1.1% (0.3-1.9)

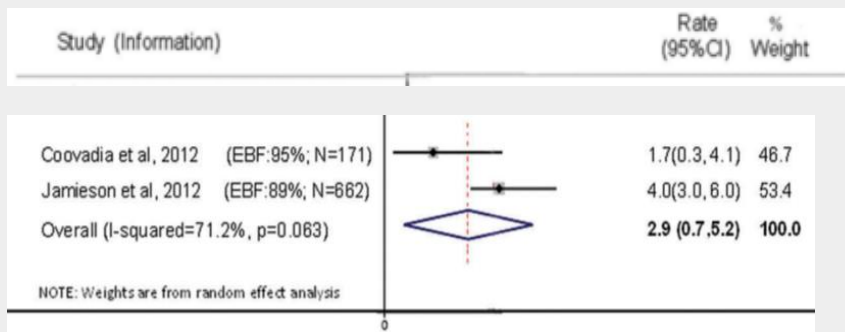


# POSTNATAL MTCT IN BREASTFED INFANTS OF WOMEN ON ART

11 studies - all clinical trial settings – mothers on ART for 6 months. Rapid weaning advised

## Postnatal MTCT

4-6 weeks and 12 months: 2 studies



Pooled estimate 2.9% (0.7-5.5%)

If maternal HIV prev is 20% translates into 580 new infections per 100 000 live births

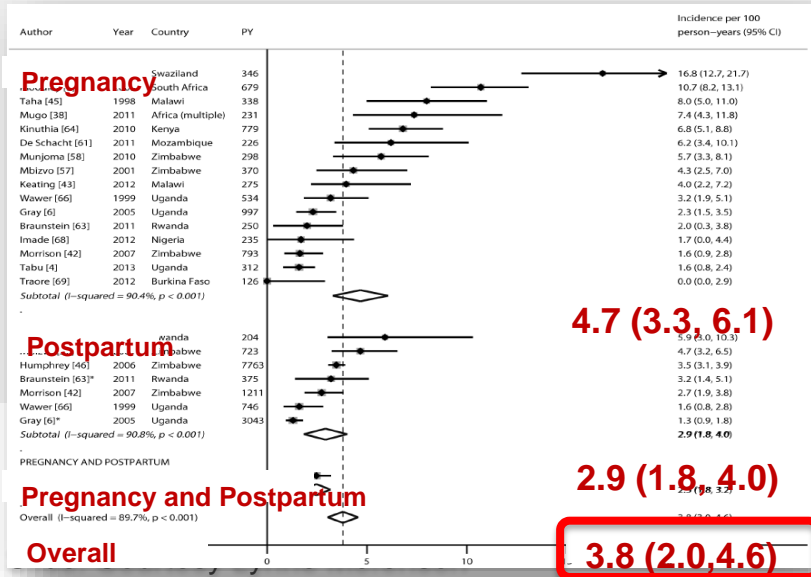
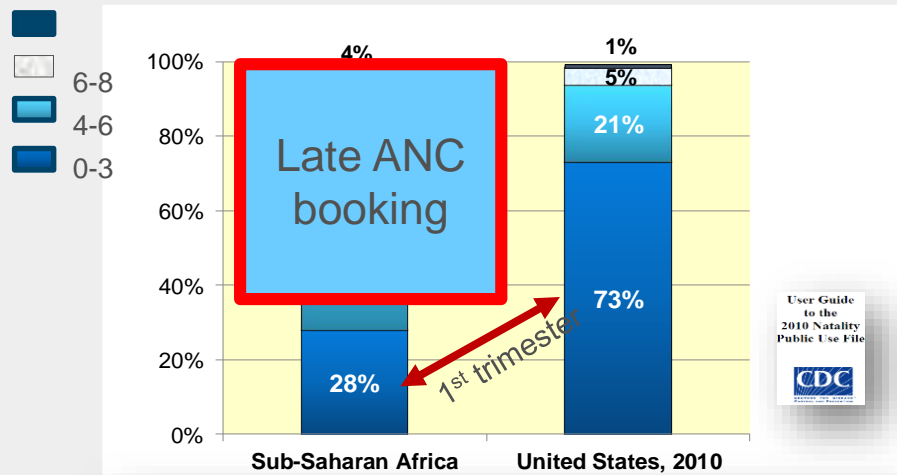
# OUR REALITIES



	Pair 1	Pair 2	Pair 3	Pair 4	Pair 5
<b>Mum</b>	Misses doses No transport VL 2 million cpml <b>Non-adherent: resistance unlikely</b>	Newly diagnosed when baby admitted to ICU <b>Resistance unlikely VL very high</b>	VL never done Reports adherence <b>Poor VL monitoring: resistance unlikely</b>	Stopped ART after delivery <b>Non-adherent: resistance unlikely</b>	VL never done. Reports adherence <b>Poor VL monitoring: resistance unlikely</b>
<b>BF Baby</b>	3 months HIV neg EBF	3 months PCP pneumonia EBF	4 months Mixed feeding	7 months HIV neg	13 months Mixed feeding

Start ANC  
(mo of preg)

# Resource-constrained settings: 5 issues




Late ANC booking

Incident HIV infections during pregnancy / BF

Drug stock-outs

Poor VL Monitoring/ delayed return of results

High maternal HIV prevalence



# INFANT PEP OPTIONS



## USA GUIDELINES OCT 2017

1. Full viral suppression in breast milk takes several weeks to months
2. Thus, hypothetically, maternal ART may be less effective than infant prophylaxis if initiated postpartum or late in pregnancy

# NICHD-HPTN 040/P1043: NO MATERNAL ANC ARVS

Nielsen-Saines K et.al. *N Engl J Med.*  
2012;366(25):2368-2379.

## Randomisation 48 hrs post-delivery

**Standard** 6 weeks  
AZT  
(8mg if  $\leq 2\text{kg}$  or 12mg  
>2kg bd)

3/12  
MTCT

4.8%

• **Standard** + 3 doses NVP in week 1 (1<sup>st</sup> dose 0-48 hrs, 2nd dose 48 hours after 1<sup>st</sup> dose, 3rd dose 96 hours after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose) **DUAL**

2.2%

• **Standard** + 2 weeks **3TC**  
(4mg or 6mg bd) +  
**nelfinavir** (100 /150/  
300mg bd) **TRIPLE**

2.4%

- ✓ 17 sites – Brazil (70%), SA (27%), Argentina (2%), USA (1%) Apr 2004 – Jul 2010
- ✓ 9% BF at birth. <1% BF at 2 weeks **96% ARV adherence (diaries)**
- ✓ **Dual** - and triple-combination regimens reduced risk of intrapartum MTCT by  $\approx 50\%$  at 3 months compared with **Standard (n=1684)**
- ✓ Triple - more hematologic toxicity (neutropaenia) + difficult to administer
- ✓ **Resulted in USA moving to DUAL INFANT ARV prophylaxis**



# WHO 2016 guidance for extended postnatal prophylaxis (ePNP)

All HIGH RISK newborns: **daily AZT + NVP for 6 weeks**  
HIGH RISK breastfeeding infants continue **either AZT and NVP or NVP alone for an additional 6 weeks**

*High risk assessed at delivery or later*

*Known HIV+ mother:*

1. not on ART OR
2. on ART with VL>1000 OR
3. ART duration<5 weeks

Newly identified HIV+ mother  
within 72 hours of delivery



World Health  
Organization

# 2016 guidance for extended postnatal prophylaxis (ePNP)

## Dilemmas:

1. Diagnosed during BF
2. Not virally suppressed & BF
3. Mother refuses ART or
4. Poor adherence

1. not on ART OR
2. on ART with VL>1000 OR
3. ART duration<5 weeks

newly identified HIV+ mother  
within 72 hours of delivery

**AZT dosing is tricky since AZT clearance increases between birth and 6 weeks so the dose goes up 4-fold**

Infant age (and birthweight)		Dosing of NVP	Dosing of AZT
0- 6 weeks	BW 2000–2499g	10 mg once daily	10 mg twice daily
	BW $\geq$ 2500g	15 mg once daily	15 mg twice daily
6 to 12 weeks		20 mg once daily	60 mg twice daily

**Doses are for term infants >35 weeks gestation**

# Are we making life complicated?

1

Who is high risk? Assessing risk is difficult and time-consuming in busy clinics

2

Do you use two drugs or one drug from week 6 to 12? It seems easier to use 2 drugs but the jump in AZT dose is challenging

3

Formulations... Syrups are difficult to use and there is no FDC tablet for infant prophylaxis

# ePNP – What are countries doing?

COUNTRY	ePNP DURATION	REGIMEN
Cote D'Ivoire	4 wks	NVP for HIV-1, AZT for HIV -2 or mixed
Angola, Cameroon Malawi, Mozambique	6 wks	NVP
Ethiopia	6 or 12 wks	NVP, duration based on timing of diagnosis and feeding
Uganda	12 wks	NVP
Tanzania	6 wks	AZT + NVP
Nigeria	6 wks	NVP if VL<1,000; AZT+ NVP for HIGH RISK infants
Kenya	12 weeks	6 wks AZT + NVP then 6 weeks NVP
Ghana	12 weeks	AZT + NVP
South Africa, Zimbabwe	6 weeks 12 wks	NVP AZT+ NVP for HIGH RISK
Zambia	6 wks AZT+ NVP for LOW RISK: Mother>12 wks on ART / complicated mother on ART>12wks, home delivery with arrival at HF <72h 12 wks AZT+ NVP for HIGH RISK : <12 wks on ART /VL>1,000/ Identified at delivery or during BF until infant's final outcome: AZT+ NVP if mother refuses ART	

# ePNP – What are countries doing?

COUNTRY	ePNP DURATION	REGIMEN
Cote D'Ivoire	4 wks	ART for HIV-1, AZT for HIV -2 or mixed
Angola, Cameroon Malawi, Mozambique	6 wks	NVP
Ethiopia		ART and feeding
Uganda		
Tanzania		ART for HIGH RISK infants
Nigeria		on 6 weeks NVP
Kenya	12	
Ghana		
South Africa, Zimbabwe		HIGH RISK
Zambia	6 wks AZT+ NVP 12 wks AZT+ NVP AZT+ NVP if mother remains on ART	mother >12 wks on ART / complicated delivery with arrival at HF <72h HIGH RISK : <12 wks on ART / VL >1,000/ Identified at delivery or during infant's final outcome:

No programme/  
pragmatic trial  
data on ePNP  
effectiveness

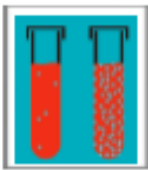
# FUTURE POSSIBILITIES





# POSSIBLE SA OPTIONS

## VL monitoring and Management



Check if the mother has had a VL result in the last 3 months and categorize the risk of the mother:

- VL < 400c/ml = Low risk
- VL > 400 c/ml = High risk
- No VL result in the last 3 months = High risk

All women must have a VL test done at the time of delivery.

Although this VL result will mostly still be unknown when infant prophylaxis is initiated, remember to insert the laboratory barcode sticker into the postnatal discharge form and/or the RTHB.

The results of the delivery VL must be checked at the 3-6-day postnatal visit, and the management of the mother-infant pair adjusted accordingly



An elevated viral load at delivery increases the risk for poor maternal outcomes and MTCT during labour and through breastfeeding.

- NVP for baby for 6 weeks or until mother virally suppressed or breastfeeding has stopped

# 2 PLANNED TRIALS OF RESCUE THERAPY



**ANRS 12397 - PROMISE-EPI**



This project is part of the EDCTP2 programme supported by the European Union



**ANRS 12388 – PREVENIR-PEV**



Randomisation to infant ePNP (3TC) at 6-8 weeks immunization if maternal VL>1000

# WHAT ABOUT NEUTRALIZING ANTIBODIES

## Clinical Development: HIV Neutralizing mAbs

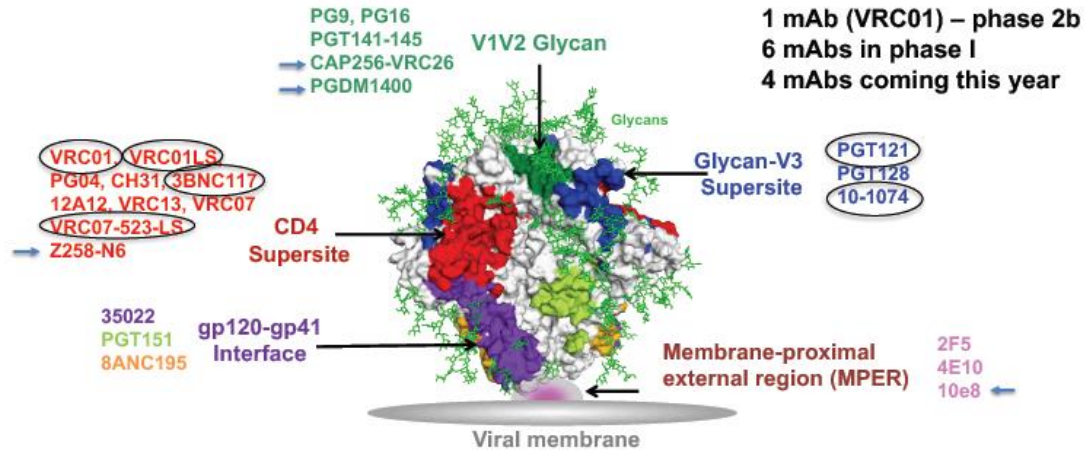
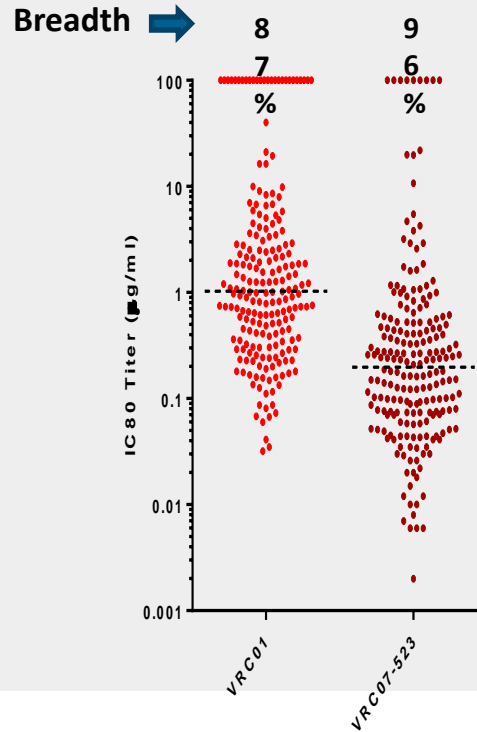


Image by Stewart-Jones, Doria-Rose, Stuckey  
Adapted from Stewart-Jones et al Cell 2016 and Pancera et al Nature 2014

bNAbs

# Improved Neutralization Potency

## VRC01 → VRC07-523-LS

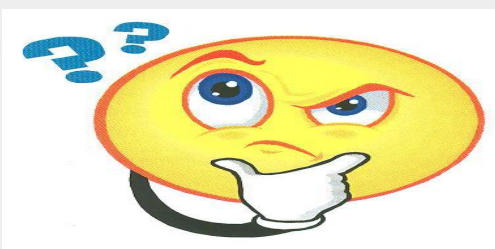


- 10 fold more potent
- Coverage improves to 96%
- Particularly good vs clade C (Seaman, Williamson et al, PlosPath 2016)
- Improved in vivo protection (SHIV) (Rudicell et al, J Virol 2014)

Panel of 206 Env-pseudoviruses:  
Doria-Rose, Louder, Bailer et al.

# SUMMARY

Road travelled



Dilemmas



Infant PEP options



Future possibilities

## We know:

- **Cell-associated MTCT**
- **Viral suppression:** 1-3 mo to  $< 1000$ , 5-6 mo to  $< 50$
- **Postpartum rebound viraemia**
- **Increased mastitis/breast inflammation** with ART
- **In high HIV prev settings**, case rates are  $> 50$  despite low MTCT %



## Gaps

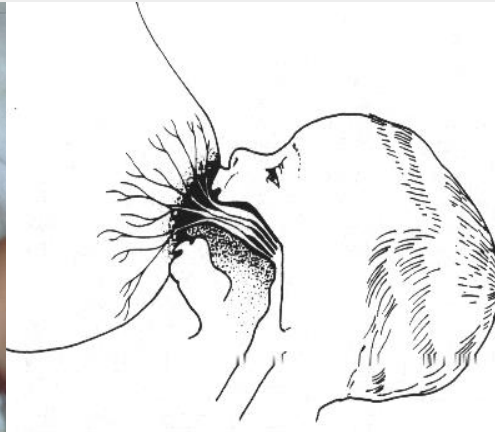


- Do newer drugs influence cell-associated HIV?
- Registry to track MTCT
- Clinical monitoring and pharmacokinetics
- Mastitis during ART?
- Optimal prophylaxis for infants – what combinations? Neutralising antibodies?
- Health systems issues and differential models of care



# DO WE KNOW HOW TO SUPORT BREASTFEEDING?

- Back to basics: attachment, positioning, breast health
- But also important to monitor viral load!!!!



# Can we eliminate breastmilk MTCT?



**Perhaps** with:

- maternal ART + infant ePNP OR  
maternal ART + infant ePNP + infant bNAb OR  
maternal ART + maternal bNAb + infant ePNP + infant  
bNAb AND
- Viral load monitoring AND
- Breastfeeding monitoring AND
- Reducing maternal HIV incidence and prevalence

# THANK YOU!

- Lynne Mofenson
- Hoosen Coovadia
- Landon Myer
- Hermione Lyall
- Shaffiq Essajee
- Philippe van der Perre
- SAMRC:
  - Vundli Ramokolo
  - Nobubelo Ngandu
  - Witness Chirinda
  - Duduzile Nsibande



Breastfeeding  
rocks!  
Let's make it risk  
free!

Health Systems Research Unit, South African Medical Research Council  
Ameena Goga: [Ameena.Goga@mrc.ac.za](mailto:Ameena.Goga@mrc.ac.za)