



MODULE 2:

Overview of PMTCT of HIV Infection



Module 2: Objectives

- Discuss mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV infection.
- Describe the four elements of a comprehensive approach to the prevention of HIV in infants and young children.
- Describe the role of maternal and child health (MCH) services in the prevention of HIV in infants and young children.



MODULE 2: Section 1

Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV Infection



Mother to Child Transmission

- MTCT can occur during:
 - Pregnancy
 - Labour and delivery
 - Breastfeeding



Scope of MTCT

- 80 % of HIV transmission in Nigeria is heterosexual
- 5 % of childbearing women are HIV-positive



Scope of MTCT

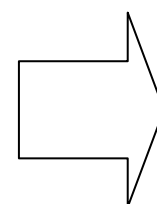
Estimated number of Nigerian infants
born with HIV each year

67,000 - 125,000



Mother to Child Transmission

100 infants born to HIV-infected women who breastfeed, without any interventions



60 to 75 infants will not be HIV-infected

5–10 infants infected during pregnancy

About 15 infants infected during labour and delivery

5–15 infants infected during breast-feeding

25 to 40 infants will be HIV-infected



Risk Factors for MTCT

Pregnancy

- High viral load
- Infection
- STIs
- Malnutrition
- Haemorrhage

Labour and Delivery

- High viral load
- Prolonged rupture of membranes
- Invasive delivery procedures
- 1st infant in multiple birth
- Chorioamnionitis

Breastfeeding

- High maternal viral load
- Duration
- Early mixed feeding
- Breast fissures, infections
- Poor maternal nutrition
- Oral disease in infant



Overview of HIV Prevention in Mothers, Infants, and Young Children

Section 2

Comprehensive Approach to Prevention of HIV Infection in Infants and Young Children



Elements for Comprehensive Approach to Prevention of HIV Infection in Infants and Young children

- **Element 1** Primary prevention of HIV infection

- **Element 2** Prevention of unintended pregnancies among women infected with HIV

- **Element 3** Prevention of HIV transmission from women infected with HIV to their infants

- **Element 4** Provision of treatment, care and support to women infected with HIV, their infants and their families



Element 1: Prevention of Primary HIV Infection

ABCs of primary HIV prevention for parents-to-be:

A = Abstain

B = Be faithful to one HIV-uninfected partner

C = Condom use – use condoms consistently and correctly

Adapt approach to local culture and target groups at risk



Element 2: Prevention of Unintended Pregnancies Among Women Infected with HIV

- Access to counselling and referral for family planning
- Safe, consistent, effective contraception



Element 3: Prevention of HIV Transmission from Women Infected with HIV to Their Infants

Core Interventions

- HIV testing and counselling
- Antiretrovirals
- Safer delivery practices
- Safer infant-feeding practices

Combination interventions can reduce the MTCT rate to as low as 2% in the absence of breastfeeding.



Element 4: Treatment, Care and Support for Women Infected with HIV and their Families

- Prevention and treatment of OIs
- ARV treatment
- Treatment of symptoms
- Palliative care
- Nutritional support
- Reproductive healthcare
- Psychosocial and community support



Overview of HIV Prevention in Mothers, Infants, and Young Children

Section 3

Role of Maternal and Child Health Services in the Prevention of HIV Infection in Infants and Young Children



MCH Programmes Offer Services that Facilitate PMTCT

- Antenatal care
- Family planning services
- ARV prophylaxis and treatment
- Safer delivery practices
- Postnatal care, cervical screening services
- Counselling and support for the woman's chosen infant-feeding method



Module 2: Key Points

- A comprehensive approach is needed to prevent HIV infection in infants and young children.
- The four elements of the comprehensive approach to PMTCT are:
 - Primary prevention of HIV infection
 - Prevention of unintended pregnancies among women infected with HIV
 - Prevention of HIV transmission from women infected with HIV to their infants
 - Provision of treatment, care and support to women infected with HIV, their infants and their families



Module 2: Key Points

- Without intervention the risk of MTCT is 25–40%.
- Combination interventions can reduce the MTCT rate to as low as 2% in the absence of breastfeeding.



Module 2: Key Points

- MCH services are the entry point to PMTCT services.
- Linkages to community services can provide enhanced treatment, care, and support.