

Journal of Pharmacokinetics and experimental Therapeutics

Open Access

AN EVALUATION OF EARLY INFANT DIAGNOSIS OF HIV AMONG INFANTS ATTENDING SELECTED LEVEL 4 AND LEVEL 5 HEALTH FACILITIES IN KENYA. BARSITO EMILY CHEMNGETICH RONO,



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ABSTRACT:

Over 90% of HIV infections among children are through Mother-To-Child Transmission. The high rates of HIV infection among women, high birth rates and failure to utilize available Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission interventions translate to high rates of HIV transmission to children hence a high burden of paediatric HIV disease. The window of opportunity for effective intervention is short, many of these children often die very young from preventable and treatable common childhood illnesses. Many of them die of AIDS related causes before their HIV status is known hence not receiving the necessary interventions. Early diagnosis of HIV is therefore critical for timely intervention in order to save their lives, thus the need to scale up access to EID (early infant diagnosis of HIV) services. Progress in stopping new infections and ensuring that mothers are alive and healthy, requires reaching the full cross-section of pregnant women with essential health services, to achieve the vision 2030 of zero HIV infections and zero AIDS related deaths. Currently HIV infections of children born to HIV positive mothers is about 14%, this trend needs to be reversed.

Biography:

Barsito Emily Chemngetich Rono is a PhD student pursuing PhD in Epidemiology at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. She also has a Master of Public Health degree from Kenyatta University. She has done a lot of public health education among the youth and women in Kenya. She is also an author who has contributed several health chapters in Kenya's annual Year Book. She has over twenty years' experience of teaching in education institutions in Kenya.



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20th Annual Meet on pharmaceutical sciences, Bangkok, Thailand, October 21-22, 2020.

Abstract Citation:

BARSITO EMILY CHEMNGETICH RONO, AN EVALUATION OF EARLY INFANT DIAGNOSIS OF HIV AMONG INFANTS ATTENDING SELECTED LEVEL 4 AND LEVEL 5 HEALTH FACILITIES IN KENYA., PHARMA MEET 2020, Bangkok, Thailand, October 21-22, 2020.