

Mngadi, P. T. (2008). Sexually transmitted infections (stis) among women enrolled in a microbicide development program (mdp) clinical trial at durban sites Microbicides 2008. New delhi.

Background: MDP 301 phase III clinical trial is testing efficacy and safety of PRO2000/5 in HIV prevention. Infection with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) remains a risk for HIV. We undertook a study to ascertain the prevalence of HIV and STIs among participating women. Methodology 1452 women were enrolled (November 2005 to August 2007) at MDP Durban sites (Verulam and Tongaat). At enrollment visits all HIV negative women aged 18-50 years were screened for Syphilis, Neisseria gonorrhoea (NG) and Chlamydia trachomatis (CT). Endocervical swabs were taken for NG CT PCR and serum for syphilis serology. Infected participants were called back to the clinic. During treatment visits participants were intensively counseled on consistent condom use. They were issued contact cards for their sexual partners to obtain treatment either at our clinic or at local clinics to avoid re-infections. Marital status was not considered Results Mean age of women was 27 years [18-50]. 202 (13.9%) were infected with at least one STI at enrollment visits. 138 (60.8%) infections were between the ages of 18-25 years; 46 (20.3%) infections aged 26-35 years; 39 (17.1%) infections aged 36-45 years and 4 (1.8%) infections in 46+ years of age. Of the 202 (13.9%) with positive STIs at enrollment, 138 (68.3%) had chlamydia; 42 (20.8%) had gonorrhoea and 38 (18.8%) were positive for syphilis (RPR and TPHA positive). Overall results showed: of the 202 (13.9%) infections, 16 (7.9%) women were infected with more than one STI (i.e. concurrent NG + CT) Conclusion: The high prevalence of STIs suggests that women are at high risk of HIV infection. The prevalence of STIs was highest in younger women, making them particularly vulnerable for HIV infection. It is imperative that these women and their partners