

Poster presentation

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## Motherhood in HIV+ women infected in early childhood

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### Background

As HIV infected girls enter adolescence and adulthood, the ability to become a mother is a question of utmost importance.

Due to major advances in treatment efficacy and MTCT strategies, a growing number of adolescents and young adults are facing the reality of motherhood. We wish to describe our experience of this relatively recent issue.

### Methods and patients

Patients are all identified mother-infant pairs followed in a paediatric care reference center specialized in HIV where the mothers have been cared for as a child with HIV and their babies in the context of PTME follow-up.

Data used are those systematically collected in the patients' medical files, with treatment and evaluation following national guidelines.

### Results

8 mothers had 18 pregnancies, resulting in a total of 9 live – born children.

6 of them experienced one or more elective abortions (1–3); in only one instance the decision was based on medical reason (patient conceiving under Efavirenz treatment).

3 mothers were younger than 18 at their first pregnancy although the median age was 19.5 years (16;28). The median age at child birth as 21.5 years (17;31).

6/8 mothers had been infected through blood transfusion in their early childhood; 2/8 by vertical transmission. 7/8 fathers were informed of maternal status.

All mothers took ARV treatment during pregnancy. In all cases maternal viral load close to delivery was < 500 c/ml.

Six women delivered vaginally, although 3 underwent caesarean section.

Children were born between 1996 and 2008; all of them benefited of post natal antiretroviral prophylaxis (6 AZT, 1 AZT+3TC, 1 Lopinavir/Ritonavir).

All children are HIV-uninfected (minimum 3 DNA PCR) and healthy, with a current median follow-up of 2 years (4 months; 5 years).

### Conclusion

These adolescent females who had been diagnosed as HIV-infected during childhood demonstrated a strong willingness to be pregnant. They delivered uninfected and healthy children, defying predictions that were made at the time of their own diagnosis. Long-term medical and psychological support remains needed for these young mothers.