#### THE USE OF HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS ONCOGENIC MRNA E6/E7 FOR CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING IN AN HIV INFECTED POPULATION

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# Human papillomavirus

- Small, non-enveloped dsDNA virus
- Commonest sexually transmitted infection
- Acquired at some time by ± 80% of sexually active individuals
- Over 100 types described, of which:
  - ± 40 infect the anogenital and oral epithelium
  - 90% of anogenital warts (condylomata) associated with HPV-6 & -11
  - 16, 18, 31, 33, 35, 39, 45, 51, 52, 56, 58, 59, 66 & 68 are considered high-risk for development of pre-malignant (CIN, AIN) and cancerous lesions
  - ± 75% of cervical cancers associated with HPV-16 & -18



# Epidemiology

- Greatest risk of acquisition 1<sup>st</sup> 5 yrs after debut
- Prevalence of HPV peaks in the mid-20's and declines after 30 years of age in heterosexual women and men
- Infection multicentric  $\rightarrow$  genital and anal infection frequently coexist
- Most HPV infections are transient → 10% will become persistent → 1% will develop clinical lesions (HSIL) that may progress to cervical cancer (average 15 – 20 years)
- Most HPV infections are transient and most people are able to clear the virus by an effective immune response.
- Infection lasts a mean of 13.5 months for high-risk HPVs and 4.8 months for low-risk types.

# Epidemiology

Cervical cancer is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most common type of cancer amongst women worldwide

- Globally > 500 000 new cases of cervical cancer and 275 000 deaths each year
  - ▶ Incidence rates: 1 50 / 100 000 women

Cervical cancer incidence: USA: 7.8; sub-Saharan Africa > 40

#### Most Common HPV Types in Cervical Cancer



# HPV in people with HIV

- Less efficient immune control
- ► HPV persists for longer
- Multiple HPV types often detected
- Lower rates of spontaneous regression
- Cytological abnormalities (LSIL & HSIL) more common
- Rates of progression more rapid
- Higher rates of persistent or recurrent infection following treatment

#### HPV in people with HIV

Risk of detecting HPV DNA in cervical and anal cells, as well as finding cytological changes is inversely proportional to the CD4 cell count



Figure. Risk for invasive cervical cancer according to CD4+ cell count in HIV-infected women. Adapted from Abraham et al.<sup>5</sup>

# Objectives

Comparative evaluation of DNA L1 vs RNA E6/E7 HPV assay for screening HIV- infected individuals

Longitudinal evaluation of mRNA clinical utility in an HIV-infected population

# Design

- Western Cape Tygerberg Hospital Infectious Diseases Clinic (IDC)
- Enrolment of 300 HIV-infected women >18 years to < 60 years of age</p>
- Half were on Antiretroviral therapy, half were not based on CD4 values
- Followed the cohort for 3 years (2010-2013)
- For molecular ThinPrep at -20 degrees

### Pathology tests

- Conventional Cytology every 6 months screened at NHLS
- ThinPrep PreservCyt liquid-based cytology specimen from initial visit, evaluated with:
  - ► Hologic AHPV
  - Roche Linear Array assay (DNA)
- Histology Data available for any biopsies taken

# Cytology quality in Western Cape

	Polo	DGM	TAD	BRM	Univ	Grey's	IALCH	Mth	EL	PE	TBH	GSH
%Adeq												
	37	56.6	52.3	67.3	54.6	44.4	33.5	57.1	48.4	64.3	79.3	74.9
%U/s	1.6	0	0.5	1.7	6.1	3	2.2	1.5	0.7	2.2	1.5	2.6

2005-2013

# Results DNA & RNA

1st ∨ist	AGUS	ASCUS	LSIL	Normal	HSIL	Total 1st visits
DNA postive	0	14	117	81	52	264
DNA						승규는 비행이 나라.
Negative	1	0	11	22	0	34
						298

Prevalence HPV DNA pos: 89%

1st vist	AGUS	ASCUS	LSIL	Normal	HSIL	Total 1st visits
RNA positive		6	90	48	54	198
RNA negative		5	32	48	2	87
U U						285

Prevalence HPV RNA pos: 69%

### Results DNA vs RNA



Cut-off : NILM vs non-NILM

# Conclusion

- These results support the use of HPV mRNA as an effective solution for cancer screening of women that are HIV- infected.
- HPV mRNA showed a good sensitivity for high grade lesions positive by cytology combined with a much better specificity.
- The extremely high prevalence of DNA positivity makes DNA testing a clinically non-realistic option in this population.

# Next Steps

- STI analysis :Chlamydia Trachomatis, Neisseria gonorrhoeae, Trichomonas vaginalis
- HIV Viral load in cervix compartment
- Analysis of the cohort and linkage with real clinical outcome will be performed.
- Longitudinal analysis of cohort

# Thank You