HIV INFECTION and PERINATAL HIV EXPOSURE

Abstract

The BPSU reporting system is a key part of paediatric reporting of HIV in the UK and Ireland. All children presenting with HIV infection, regardless of place of birth or mode of acquisition of infection, should be reported, as well as all infants born to HIV positive women in the UK and Ireland, regardless of infection status. The BPSU provides case reports facilitating data collection for national HIV prevalence monitoring programmes (used for service planning and resource allocation). Such data contributes to a wide range of epidemiological and clinical analyses and publications and also to the assessment of the impact of antenatal screening and the uptake of interventions in pregnancy, as well as developments in the management of infected and exposed children.

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Paediatric HIV surveillance is carried out at UCL GOS ICH in London, along with a parallel obstetric reporting scheme administered under the auspices of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Background

Surveillance in the UK and Ireland began in 1986 in order to monitor the incidence and prevalence of paediatric HIV infection and perinatal HIV exposure. Data is collected by the National Study of HIV in Pregnancy and Childhood (NSHPC), based at the UCL GOS Institute of Child Health, and combines paediatric and obstetric reporting schemes. A summary dataset is sent by the NSHPC every three months to Public Health England (PHE) and (Health Protection Scotland) HPS, including the paediatric component of national HIV surveillance. Reports are published regularly by PHE and HPS. The NSHPC team produces a quarterly newsletter and bi-annual slide sets which are available at www.ucl.ac.uk/nshpc.

Most cases of paediatric HIV are children born to HIV infected women. Active follow up by the NSHPC of all infants born to women known to be HIV infected at the time of their baby’s birth is conducted to establish whether or not the child is infected. Infection status in exposed infants can now usually be confirmed or excluded within the first six months of life. Guidelines on the management of infected and exposed children are available on the Children’s HIV Association (CHIVA) website (www.chiva.org.uk).

Follow-up data are sought for all infected children annually through the Collaborative HIV Paediatric Study (CHIPS) (www.chipscohort.ac.uk), a collaboration between the Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit, the clinics providing care, and the NSHPC.

Website

www.ucl.ac.uk/nshpc & www.rcpch.ac.uk/bpsu/hiv

Coverage

United Kingdom and Ireland

Duration

Surveillance began in June 1986 and is reviewed regularly.

Objective

Surveillance of paediatric HIV infection and perinatal HIV exposure in the UK and Ireland.

Case definition

Any child less than 16 years of age who has HIV infection. Also any child born to a woman known to be HIV infected at the time of that child’s birth regardless of the child’s infection status.

Reporting instructions

Please report any child not previously reported to the BPSU who meets the case definition.

Methods

Reporting paediatricians are asked to complete an NSHPC notification form shortly after the reporting card is received by the BPSU; follow-up information is sought by the NSHPC to establish infection status; subsequent annual follow up of infected children is carried out through CHIPS.

Ethics approval

The London Multicentre Research Ethics Committee approved the NSHPC and the associated CHIPS study (London MREC/04/2/009; MREC/04/2/010); annual reports are submitted. Data can be provided to the NSHPC by PCTs and NHS Trusts under the exemption specified in the STD Regulations 2000; NIGB (Ref: PIAG/BPSU 2-10(a)/2005) has approved data collection from sources other than PCTs and NHS Trusts. For further details see http://www.ucl.ac.uk/nshpc/ethics

Funding

Funding is provided by Public Health England and the Infectious Diseases Screening Programme
Selected NSHPC publications 2013-2017, and other key papers

Full list at http://www.ucl.ac.uk/nshpc/publications

Pregnancy incidence and outcomes in women with perinatal HIV infection. L Byrne, R Sconza, C Foster, PA Tookey, M Cortina-Borja, C Thorne. AIDS 2017

UK national clinical audit: management of pregnancies in women with HIV. S Raffe, H Curtis, PA Tookey, H Peters, A Freedman, Y Gilleece and on behalf of the British HIV Association Audit and Standards Sub-Committee. BMC Infectious Diseases. 2017


Further Information

NSHPC data are also presented widely at national and international conferences. Summary tables and reports are published regularly by the PHE and the HPS. The NSHPC Newsletter, slide sets, and full study information are available at www.ucl.ac.uk/nshpc.