

- **12704 | MALNUTRITION AMONG HIV EXPOSED UNINFECTED INFANTS 24 MONTHS AND BELOW: A CASE OF MUKURU SLUM IN NAIROBI, KENYA**

Wambura, Jane N., Faculdade de Ciências da Nutrição e Alimentação, Kenya

Silva, Carmen B., Faculdade de Ciências da Nutrição e Alimentação, Portugal

Oliveira, Bruno M.P.M., Faculdade de Ciências da Nutrição e Alimentação, Portugal

Correia, Flora, Faculdade de Ciências da Nutrição e Alimentação, Portugal

#### Background and Aims

With the successful chemoprophylaxis in the elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV, there is a rising number of HIV exposed uninfected (HEU) infants exposed to antiretroviral therapy for their survival during infancy. In resource limited settings, these infants are at a risk of malnutrition due to low birth weight, food insecurity, improper feeding patterns and risk of infections. This study reviewed malnutrition issues faced by this growing cohort of infants below 24 months in these settings.

#### Methods

A retrospective cohort study was performed on 160 mother/guardian-child pairs in Mukuru Slum, Nairobi, Kenya. Growth charts of the HEU infants were studied against a control group of HUU infants. Interviews to collect information on child feeding practices related to socio economic status, infections, ARV exposure and food insecurity were done.

#### Results

HEU infants have lower birth weights compared to the HUU counterparts. A sample of 160 infants was collected with HEU (n=90), HUU (n=70). Stunting among HEU infants was most common of malnutrition with 30%, followed by underweight (27%). 33.3% of the HEU infants had normal weight while 9.7% were severely wasted. The incidence of low birth weight in HEU infants was higher than in the HUU. Suboptimal postnatal growth of HEU infants was lower than in HUU since they were constantly hospitalized.

#### Conclusions

HEU infants are faced with a high malnutrition risk within the resource limited settings as compared to the HUU children in their first 24 months of life. It is necessary to foster future operational studies to inform HIV programs on ways to eliminate malnutrition among the rising number of HEU infants.

#### Keywords

HIV

Malnutrition

HEU (HIV Exposed Uninfected)

HUU(HIV Unexposed Uninfected)