

From MTCT to family centered approach... A long road !

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Back in the past

- First MTCT programmes were to measure transmission of HIV from mother to child and compare morbidity and mortality to HIV negative mothers (early 90's).
- Of course there was no antiretroviral drugs available
- Then we conducted PMTCT programmes in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (from 1994 to 1999)
 - AZT as a prophylaxis and no treatment
 - What to do with other HIV infected members (partner but also siblings) of the family ?

The FSTI and UNAIDS initiative

- In 1999, France and Côte d'Ivoire authorities started the FSTI (Fonds de Solidarité Thérapeutique International)
- For the first time, there was the principal of family treatment approach.
- Antiretroviral treatments were available in Côte d'Ivoire through the UNAIDS initiative
- We obtained support for the first treatments
- Then treatment was free for children ...

Le « Projet Enfant »

- Doctors, psychologists, scientists and HIV infected women associations faced a very low level of care management of HIV infected children
- With the support of AMEPOUH, first association of HIV infected women in West Africa, there was the creation of a day hospital in Abidjan for HIV infected children (research programme funded by ANRS) in October 2000

From the child to the family

- At start, we focused on care (medical and psychological) of HIV infected children but
 - Mothers were in need of treatment for themselves
 - We had to propose the HIV test to siblings
 - Some fathers were coming ... and it was nearly the first time
 - They were several children infected in some families
 - Numerous children were taken in charge by other members of their families than parents
 - To cover medical and psychological needs was far not enough

How we answered ?

- All care and transportations were free of charge
- Creation of one association to care for HIV infected and affected children « Chigata »
- We looked for support everywhere...
- Treatment for parents (french NGO's)
- Support for school, food, clothes, toys... to families
- Month meetings with families to answer questions they have
- Peer group for teenagers

What we learned at the end ?

- All the care have to be free of charge
- We need some official support (treatments, help to families...)
- Even in a family centered approach, there can still have problems
 - Discrimination
 - Secret
 - Absence of care or follow up
- Associations (Community based organisations) support is really of first importance
 - To identify and help families
 - To offer services that it is difficult to do at the hospital (school help, food distribution..)
 - Against discrimination through discussions with families
 - To give time to families to treat problems in relation with death of parents and what to do with the children

