

KENYA: country activities 2017

Dolutegravir Treatment Optimisation

CHAI CAB

After the Senegal Meeting between the CHAI/UNITAID Optimal ARV project and formation of the current Board, Kenya has seen a significant flow of major activities as follows:

ELDORET

A consultative meeting was held in Eldoret on 24th June 2017 at Newtonian Suite which majorly focused on DTG launch and roll out at all the Academic Model for Prevention and Treatment of HIV (AMPATH) clinics which covers Bungoma, Trans Nzoia, Nandi, Keiyo Marakwet and Uasin Gishu counties, as one of the major Clinics in Kenya.

- a) The meeting was chaired by AFROCAB coordinator and after the meeting,
- b) An advocacy team was constituted with the aim of educating the community on superior ARVs and as a result creates demand. The team included pharmacists, Psychological and retention officers, peer educators, advocate/activists, and PLHIVs.
- c) A Whatsapp group/ team to start discussion on superior ARVs in market and in pipeline including any event related to the launch and roll out of DTG in Western Kenya





Pic: Eldoret consultative meeting

NAIROBI

On 27th June 2017 at Tulip Hotel Nairobi, the Kenyan Optimal CAB had a pre DTG launch consultative / sensitization meeting that aimed to sensitize the community of PLHIVs to discuss barriers and opportunities for the introduction of new ARVs into National treatment programme in LMIC to support further treatment scale up and also have knowledge of the recent findings since there is no sufficient experience on DTG, TAF, EFV400 in its recommendation to pregnancy.

More importantly there safety and efficacy data on DTG, TAF and EVF 400 in subpopulations which are needed before the large introduction in National programmes. (ART treatment, drug-drug interaction, HIV-TB co-infection and pregnant women) and to look at the WHO 2015 guideline recommendations.

The meeting concluded that:

- More people should be put on ART
- Need for more affordable, tolerable, efficacious, less toxic ARVs in Kenya
- Need for more Treatment Literacy trainings and information is needed
- Working in collaboration with county Governments, there is need to create demand of DTG and the greater involvement of PLHIVs to be aware of new superior ARV drugs in Market and at clinics and consideration for more drugs in second line
- Use of media to pass this information to the larger constituency of PLHIVs
- Need to use the AFROCAB app to report shortages of ARVs/side effects in the country



Pic: group picture of the pre DTG launch meeting at Tulip Hotel Nairobi.



Above participants listening to Jaque, CAB member during the pre DTG launch meeting

On 28th June 2017 at Radisson Blue Hotel Nairobi, Kenya became the first country in the continent to launch the generic version of Dolutegravir. This was made possible with help of MOH Kenya, UNITAID, CHAI and the community of PLHIVs. During the launch through the country director Mr. Maturi, UNITAID donated 250,000 Packs of DTG to be rolled out in three sites in Kenya that include Kenyatta National Hospital Nairobi, Moi Teaching and referral Hospital Eldoret and Jaramogi Referral Hospital/Kenya Medical Research Institute Kisumu.



Stakeholders following keenly on the speeches during the launch of DTG in Kenya



UNITAID country Director Mr. Maturi donates 250,000 packs of DTG to Ministry of health representative during the launch.

On the Kenyan Optimal Cab had a two day workshop at Olive Garden Hotel Nairobi targeting the PLHIVs, Programme officers, peer educators, advocates, psychological counselors, youth leaders and the cab members .

The Specific objectives of the treatment literacy workshop were:

- To draw attention of the Ministry of Health to the community understands of new drugs before their administration.
- To build a National team of competent Trainers in treatment literacy through training
- To build a competent treatment literate constituency of PLHIV across the regions by the end of 2017
- To educate the constituency on the new and effective treatments available on the market and
- Advocate for superior ARVs and create demand for the general population PLHIV.
- Come up with an Advocacy work plan as we create demand.



Participants in the two-day workshop on treatment literacy



Treatment literacy workshop participants listening to the AMPATH representative in the meeting

CONCLUSION

As a result of the Launch of DTG in Kenya, The Academic Model for Prevention and Treatment of HIV (AMPATH) has made progress since it has come up with a Policy document with the title, **Recommendation on Dolutegravir Use for Treatment HIV infection-RAPID ADVICE.**

The document is in line with the NASCOP commitment in optimizing anti-retroviral medication in Kenya, where as a country we have started the rollout of DTG, a once a day integrase strand transfer inhibitor (INSTI) that has potent anti-retroviral activity, a relatively high resistant threshold and few side effects.

As indicated in the NASCOP memo June 8th 2017, DTG 50mg tablets is now available in the National ARV supply chain for use in adolescents >40 kg and adults and is recommended in certain clinical situations.

NASCOP has asked AMPATH to rapidly scale up use of DTG over the next 9 months to help inform the National policy. The Kenyan Cab is working closely with AMPATH as they have started targeting seven thousand (7,000) of their clients who are on TDF/3TC/NVP to switch TDF/3TC/DTG in as first face rollout.

As CAB we are keen to help in monitoring of pharmacokinetic vigilance as the roll out continues. A new guideline from National AIDS and STD control Programme (NASCOP) will be coming in the next 6-12 months intended to guide clinicians and nurses .The document gives appropriate guidance on indications, drug interactions, dosing, potential side effects and warnings. The guidance also has answers to frequently asked questions.

The above progress will inform our future activities as a Cab.