



Reducing loss to follow-up in the ComTru study

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Background 1



- The ComTru study is a PMTCT study conducted in Tanga, Tanzania.
- Comparing two combination drugs Combivir and Truvada in addition to sdNVP.
- Patients are enrolled from the RCH clinics during antepartum and followed till 9months postpartum.
- Due to higher than expected LTFU in the initial study period, modifications were made.
- ComTru is EDCTP funded study.



Background 2



- Changes Implemented during the 2nd study period were:
 - Making tracing acceptance mandatory.
 - Obtainment of precise addresses using a purchased study car with GPS.
 - Addition of study nurses to the team to facilitate home visits.
 - Addition of study site to increase study patients' follow-up.



Objectives



- To determine the rate of ComTru Study patients reporting for follow-up visits
- To compare follow-up rates in the two study periods (pre-&post modification).

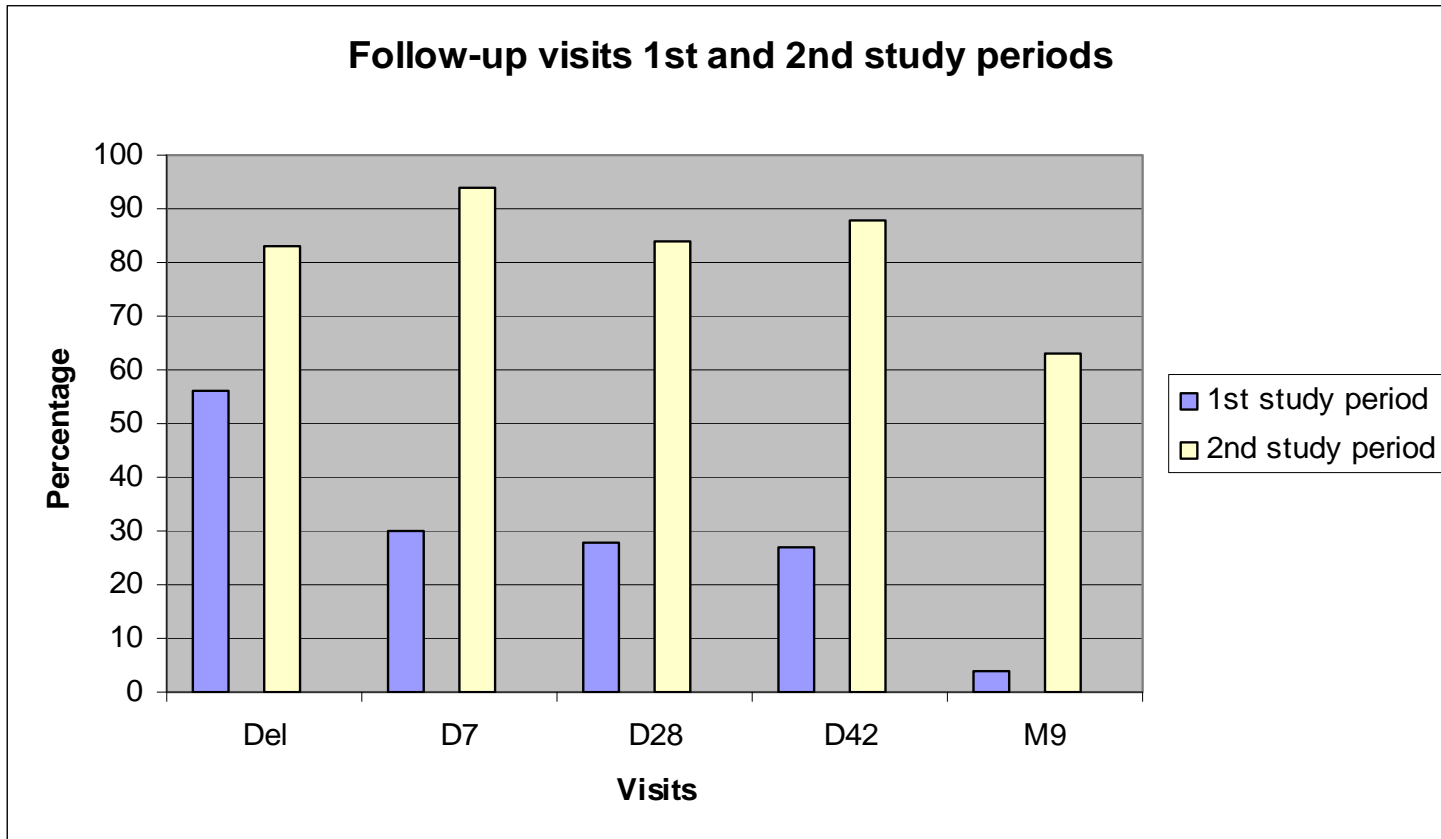


Methods



- Accessing the ComTru study database
- Counting up of participants in relation to follow-up visits.
- Computing the percentages accordingly

Results



Hospital deliveries increased from 78 patients (56%) to 211 (83%), Day7 from 42 patients (30%) to 166 (94%) and month 9 from 6 (4%) to 48 patients (63%).



Discussion & Conclusions



- Changes implemented in the study have had a marked impact on LTFU.
- Reasons behind LTFU need to be investigated.
- Lack of knowledge on HIV, poverty, movement of study patients might contribute to LTFU.



Future perspectives



- Intensive community sensitization.
- Encouraging home visits and meetings between HIV positive women