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HIV and STIs prevalence among female sex workers in Africa: A systematic literature review

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Female sex workers (FSWs) are at heightened risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV. The purpose of this systematic literature review of STI/HIV prevalence for FSWs in Central Africa is to appraise and understand the burden of STIs and HIV. Electronic databases searched included PubMed (MEDLINE), Embase, Global Health, MeSH, Cochrane Library, Health Reference Center, Pro Quest, Psyc INFO, Science Direct, Social Services Abstracts, SCOPUS, CINAHL, Web of Science, and POP Line. Relevant articles published from 2007 to 2012 were identified. The findings of this multi-country regional review provided reliable evidence that despite prevention efforts, FSWs remain one of the main populations most affected by HIV/STIs. The review reveals that the prevalence of HIV/STIs among FSWs in a number of African countries is high, especially in Cameroon and Nigeria, two countries with the highest HIV and STI prevalence. Furthermore, FSWs who work on the street, or freelance, or use multiple venues are significantly more likely to be infected with HIV/STIs than those who work from a single venue.

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Multi-dimensional approach based on nutrition and nanotechnology and novel therapeutic interventions in psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis

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Psoriasis is a common chronic skin disorder characterized by well-demarcated erythematous plaques with silvery scales (guttate, pustular, erythrodermic and inverse types); nail psoriasis, abnormal keratinocyte proliferation, increased dermal angiogenesis and systemic inflammation. Its prevalence is about 2–4% worldwide and is associated with psoriatic arthritis, HLA-B27 syndromes, metabolic and cardiovascular diseases, uveitis, chronic kidney disease, vitiligo, osteoporosis, IBD and a higher risk of developing sudden sensory-neural hearing loss. The pathogenesis of psoriasis involves environmental, genetic and immunological factors. The treatment approaches still have several disadvantages such as being time-consuming, troublesome and disagreeable, or having potential side effects, resulting in non-adherence and frustration among patients. Some pharmaceutical treatments also result in negative effects, such as cardio-metabolic comorbidities and have significant interactions with drugs that are usually used to treat them. Therefore, patients need to have knowledge about beneficial dietary supplements, including the use of oral vitamin D, vitamin B12, selenium and omega-3 fatty acids in fish oils. Clinical improvement is possible by changing the dietary habits and lifestyle of the patients. On top of that, we introduce advanced nano-technological approaches for the efficient treatment of psoriasis. This review summarizes and compares the recent progress on findings, challenges and novel treatment approaches in psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

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