

European Pharma Congress

August 25-27, 2015 Valencia, Spain

Perception level of voluntary counseling/testing and knowledge/awareness of HIV/AIDS among adult population in UGEP town of cross-river state of Nigeria

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The Human Immune deficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) pandemic have had a profound effect on the health and social life of people in Nigeria. This study was aimed at assessing the perception level of voluntary counseling/ testing and knowledge/ awareness of HIV/AIDS among the adult population in Ugep town of Cross-River State of Nigeria. 160 residents of Ugep metropolis between the ages of 17 and 60 were surveyed. Structured questionnaire was administered. 77.5% of the participants understands what HIV/AIDS is 98.1% are aware of the routes of transmission. 65% and 98.8% respectively have a good knowledge of the signs/symptoms and prevention of the disease. Only 15.6% of the respondents are aware of the availability of medical treatment for HIV/AIDS. 47.5% Of the respondents affirmed that they will stigmatize people living with HIV/AIDS. 93.1% were aware of Voluntary Testing and Counseling (VCT) of which 59.4% had undergone one. A minority group of the respondents 39.4% believed that life would still be worth living if they are sero-positive. 61.2% said they cannot disclose their HIV status to anyone while 40.6% believed that VCT can bring about an HIV-free society. 40.6% respondents have never gone for VCT for several reasons. Alarming, 13% of the respondents said they would commit suicide if they were to be sero-positive while 3% would spread the virus to others. Knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDS is yet to achieve desired goals and impact therefore urgent intervention by the relevant bodies to educate and enlightening of the populace is required.

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Plant virus expression vectors for biopharmaceutical production

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Plant made biologics have elicited much attention over recent years for their potential in assisting those in developing countries who have poor access to modern medicine. Additional applications such as the stockpiling of vaccines against pandemic infectious diseases or potential biological warfare agents are also under investigation. Plant virus expression vectors represent a technology that enables high levels of pharmaceutical proteins to be produced in a very short period of time. Recent advances in research and development have brought about the generation of superior virus expression systems which can be readily delivered to the host plant in a manner that is both efficient and cost effective. The following presentation describes recent innovations in plant virus expression systems and their uses for producing biologics from plants.

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