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## Study of prevalence and associated risk factors of HIV/Syphilis co-infection among Tricycle (Keke) drivers in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State

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The study investigated the prevalence and associated risk factor of HIV/Syphilis co-infection, among tricycle (Keke) drivers in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State, Nigeria. Convenient random sampling research design was explored during the study population recruitment, hence a total of 150 blood samples were collected from the subjects, with an average age range of 20 - 55 years and also, their demographic characteristics were also obtained through well-structured questionnaire. Two (2) mls of venous blood were collected from the subjects, after verbal consent was obtained, and the blood was dispensed into a plain sample bottle. The obtained serum after centrifugation at 2500 rpm was used to assay for HIV and Syphilis antibodies respectively. The rapid screening kits used for screening HIV and Syphilis were Determine™ and Uni Gold™ (Alere Medical Co Japan; Trinity Biotech Plc Ireland) and Syphilis Ultra rapid screening kit (Skytec, USA). However, out of 150 subjects assayed for HIV co-infection with syphilis, 148 (98.7 %) were negative while 2 (1.3%) were positive and were recorded as the overall prevalence of the study. The prevalence of syphilis found among participants was 4 (2.7%) while that of HIV was 2

(1.3%). This study revealed a moderate high prevalence of HIV co-infection with syphilis. Furthermore, the correlation analysis among possible potential risk factors revealed that Age, Education, Employment status and Access to Health centres were not possible potential risk factors to the infection, however, Previous cases of STD, Syphilis status and HIV status of infection among the subjects were possible risk factors at < 0.05, thus, it is therefore, strongly recommended that more proactive and preventive measures should be employed at all levels of governance to control the spread of HIV/Syphilis co-infection in Rivers State, especially in the rural communities where access to Health education and functional health care facility still remains a massive challenge.

### Speaker Biography

Obioma Azuonwu works in the department of medical laboratory science and is a faculty of science at Rivers State University of Science and Technology located at Nkpolu, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. His research interests are in the healthcare and its allied regions.

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