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Reply

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the authors, I thank the readers for the deep interest and meticulous analysis of the article and for providing latest guidelines on “preventing mother to child transmission (PMTCT) in children” with a vision “Getting to Zero HIV in children”. I wish to state that:

The reader needs to be complemented to provide a brief summary of latest WHO guidelines – 2013 and recommendations for preventing mother to child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV, which are mainly advocating to completely stop the MTCT, with an aim, that no child should suffer from this disease. The bottom-line in MTCT is the maternal viral load and all our emphasis to reduce the maternal viral load by starting triple drug HAART at the earliest and continue as long as baby is being breastfed. This will not only stop the transmission to the baby, but also reduce the morbidities in infant by continuation of breast feeding. This concept was realized by the authors, as early as in 2008 and all pregnant mothers were initiated on HAART at our center, as a result, MTCT has been reduced to negligible rate of below 4%. We actually recommended the replacement feeding as preferred choice, as we could closely follow these infants for any problems or

morbidities and the same may not be applicable at national level. The concept of starting HAART to all pregnant mothers is now being recommended by WHO in 2013. By continuing HAART for life, by the young mothers starting from antenatal period will also reduce the horizontal transmission to their partners. These steps will help in achieving a noble goal of eliminating the HIV transmission in children.

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