Uptake of new guidelines for cryptococcal meningitis in Botswana, Malawi, Uganda and Zimbabwe

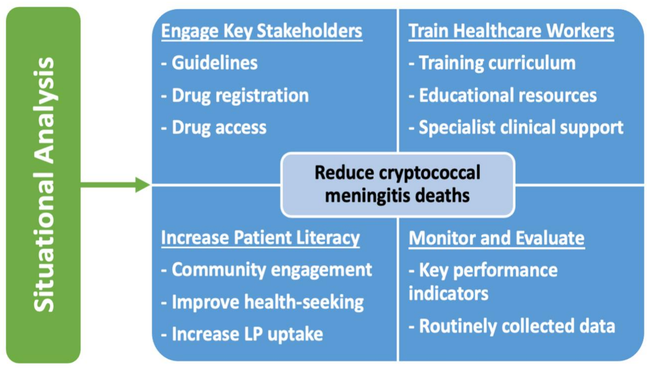
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BACKGROUND

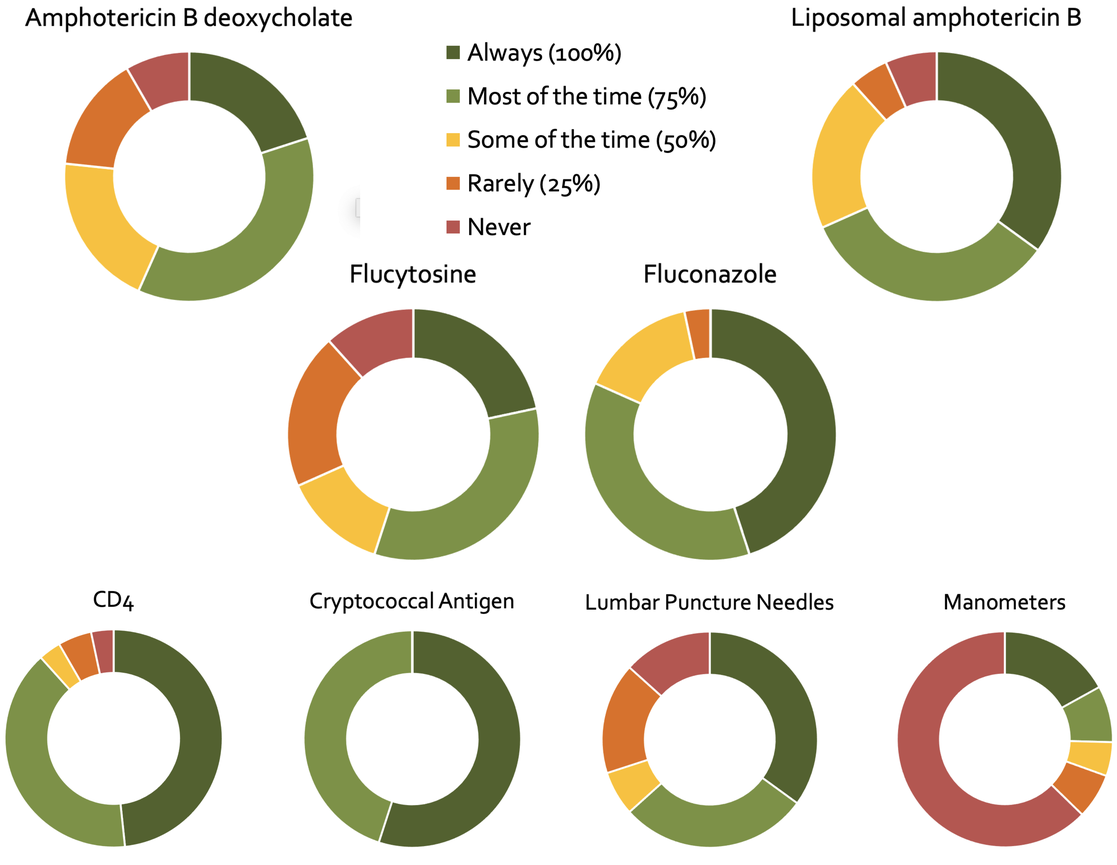
- WHO guidelines for HIV-associated cryptococcal meningitis were updated in June 2022 recommending a single high-dose of liposomal amphotericin with 14 days of fluconazole and flucytosine.
- The AMBITION team who defined that regimen lead the Single High-dose AmBisome to Reduce Mortality from CM (SHARE-CM) project aiming to maximise the impact of the regimen in routine care.
- The project engages key stakeholders, trains healthcare workers, increases patient health-related literacy, and undertakes M&E of impact (Figure below).
- We report progress after the first 3 years of this 5-year project.



METHODS

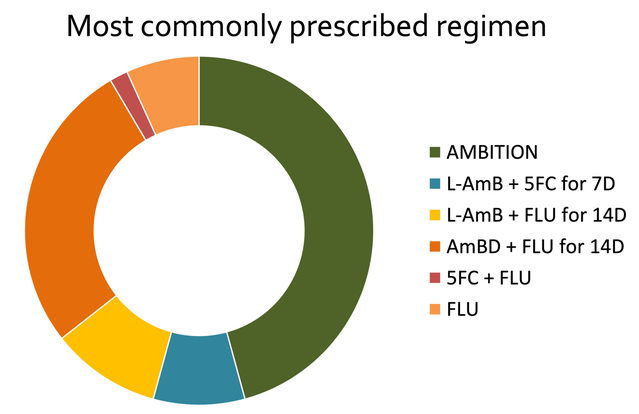
- We identified personnel at Ministries of Health and a purposively selected sample of healthcare facilities in Botswana, Malawi, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.
- We administered national level surveys to understand current treatment guidelines, drug registration status, and drug availability.
- We administered facility level surveys to determine the availability of key commodities and ascertain which treatment regimens are most administered to patients.
- Surveys were completed online and data described.

There has been rapid adoption of the WHO 2022 guidelines for cryptococcal meningitis in routine care in high-incidence settings



RESULTS

- Four national surveys and 60 facility surveys (Botswana: 13, Malawi: 13, Zimbabwe 14, Uganda: 20) were completed between June 2023 - July 2024.
- The AMBITION regimen was first-line in each country guideline, but timing of guideline dissemination varied.
- Key antifungals were available in each country, initially via Unitaid/CHAI funding and recently via the Global Fund (Figures in centre).
- The AMBITION regimen was the most administered overall in 47% (28/60) of facilities with significant intercountry variability ranging from 15% (2/13) in Botswana to 75% in Uganda (15/20) (Figure below).



CONCLUSIONS

- In the two years since WHO guidelines were updated, there has been rapid adoption of the AMBITION regimen in high-incidence settings.
- Antifungals are available in country but not always at facility level, highlighting the need to improve in-country supply chains.
- The AMBITION regimen was the most administered overall, with intercountry variability likely explained by different timing of guideline dissemination.
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation can support improved uptake of the AMBITION regimen.

REFERENCES

1. Jarvis JN, Lawrence DS, Meya DB, Kagimu E, Kasibante J, Mpoza E, et al. Single-dose liposomal amphotericin B treatment for cryptococcal meningitis. New England Journal of Medicine. 2022;386(12):1109-20. 2. World Health Organisation. Guidelines for diagnosis, preventing and managing cryptococcal disease among adults, adolescents and children living with HIV. Geneva: World Health Organisation; 2022.