

THE ART OF RESEARCH



Zisixelela ntoni iimpilana zelungu lobufazi zabasetyhini baseAfrika? Ngubani owaziyo?

Abasetyhini baseAfrika abahoywa kuphando lweempilana zelungu lobufazi lwehlabathi. Oku kuthetha ukuba kuyathintelwa ukunyangwa kwebacterial vaginosis eAfrika. Abasetyhini baseAfrika kufuneka babe yinxenye yomfanekiso.

UKirsten Welp ligosa lezenzulwazi eluphando lwalo lujolise kwimvelaphi yezifo zebacterial vaginosis kwiYunivesithi yaseKapa.

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“Ubulula buba yimpucuko ekugqibeleni,” watsho uLeonardo da Vinci, kwaye ke oku kuchaza ngokufanelekileyo ithiyori efanelekileyo yeempilana zelungu lobufazi. Ngokwethiyori, ilungu lobufazi kufuneka libe nemo engqongileyo elula – eneasidi, ineyantlukwano esezantsi, kwaye ephantse ibe nayo ngokukodwa ilactobacilli, ibhakthiriya yelungu lobufazi “elungileyo”. Oku kudala olona khuselo lukhulu kwiintsholongwane. Kodwa kunqabile ukuba zibe lula ezi, kwaye inyani kukuba bamalunga nekota abasetyhini ehlabathini ngokubanzi, abanemeko ekuthiwa yibacterial vaginosis (BV). Oku akubabangeli ukuthukuthezeleka nje kuphela kunye neziphumo zempilo ezimandundu, kodwa ixesha elininzi awasebenzi amanyango ekunyangeni i-BV. Abasetyhini baseAfrika bajongene nomthwalo we-BV ngokungafaniyo, kodwa ngokuphikisayo, kukho umelo oluncinci lwabasetyhini baseAfrika kuphando kwe-BV emhlabeni.

Ngexa iyantlukwano kwiimpilana zelungu lobufazi iyinto esizamela ukuyiphikisa, ukwenza iyantlukwano kwiimpilana okufakwe kolu phando kuyimfuneko ukuthathela ingqalelo umthwalo we-BV kwihlabathi jikelele. UKirsten Welp ligosa lezenzulwazi kwiQela loSulelo lweNwebu (Mucosal Infections Group) (MIG) usebenza njengenxenye yeprojekthi ye-VMRC4Africa. Le projekthi ijolise ekuphuculeni impilo yokunxulumene



Abantu abahlukeneyo bayamanyana ukwandisa uphando lwe-microbiome kunye nokujongana nomthwalo wehlabathi we-bacterial vaginosis

Presented in association with the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine, this programme forms part of #theArtofResearch, an initiative of research communication specialists Jive Media Africa.



nokuzala yabasetyhini eAfrika ngokujolisa kunyango nothintelo lwe-BV. UKirsten neqela elikhulu le-VMRC4Africa basebenzela ukufumana iimpawu zeempilana zabasetyhini baseAfrika ukuziqonda ngcono ezi mpilana. Umsebenzi wangaphambili ukhokelele ekuchongweni okokuqala kwebhakthiriya ezingekaze zibonwe ngaphambili kwabasetyhini baseMzantsi Afrika, ezivelisa iendotoxin ekralisayo (lipopolysaccharide) kuneentlobo ezifana nayo kwilungu lobufazi. Oku kufunyanisiweyo kuqaqambise iqela elingekaze lichukunyiswe lwebhakthiriya kwabasetyhini baseAfrika, kunye nolwazi olubalulekileyo olunqongopheleyo olwenziwa lumelo olusezantsi eAfrika kuphando lweempilana. Ukongeza, kuquka ukubekwa kodwa kweAfrika

kuphuhliso lwebhakthiriya elungileyo ukuqinisekisa ukuba abasetyhini abachatshazelwa kakhulu yi-BV bayaqukwa kwiinzame zophando.

Ukohlukaniswa kophando lweempilana lwehlabathi kufuna ukuhlanganyelana nenkxaso, ekhaya naphesheya, ukuba luquke ngcono abasetyhini baseAfrika kunye nenguqulo yabo yentsholongwane “iimpilana”. Ithemba kukuba ngokuquka iintsholongwane zaseAfrika kuphando, abasetyhini baseAfrika baya kumelwa ngcono kwaye bancedwe ziziphumo zophando lwempilo enxulumene nokuzala.

“Uphando lwam lujolise ekuyileni ingqokelela yeentlobo ze*Gardnerella* ezivela kwabasetyhini baseMzantsi Afrika kunye nokuphanda ukuba zohluka njani kwiintlobo zamazwe ngamazwe.

