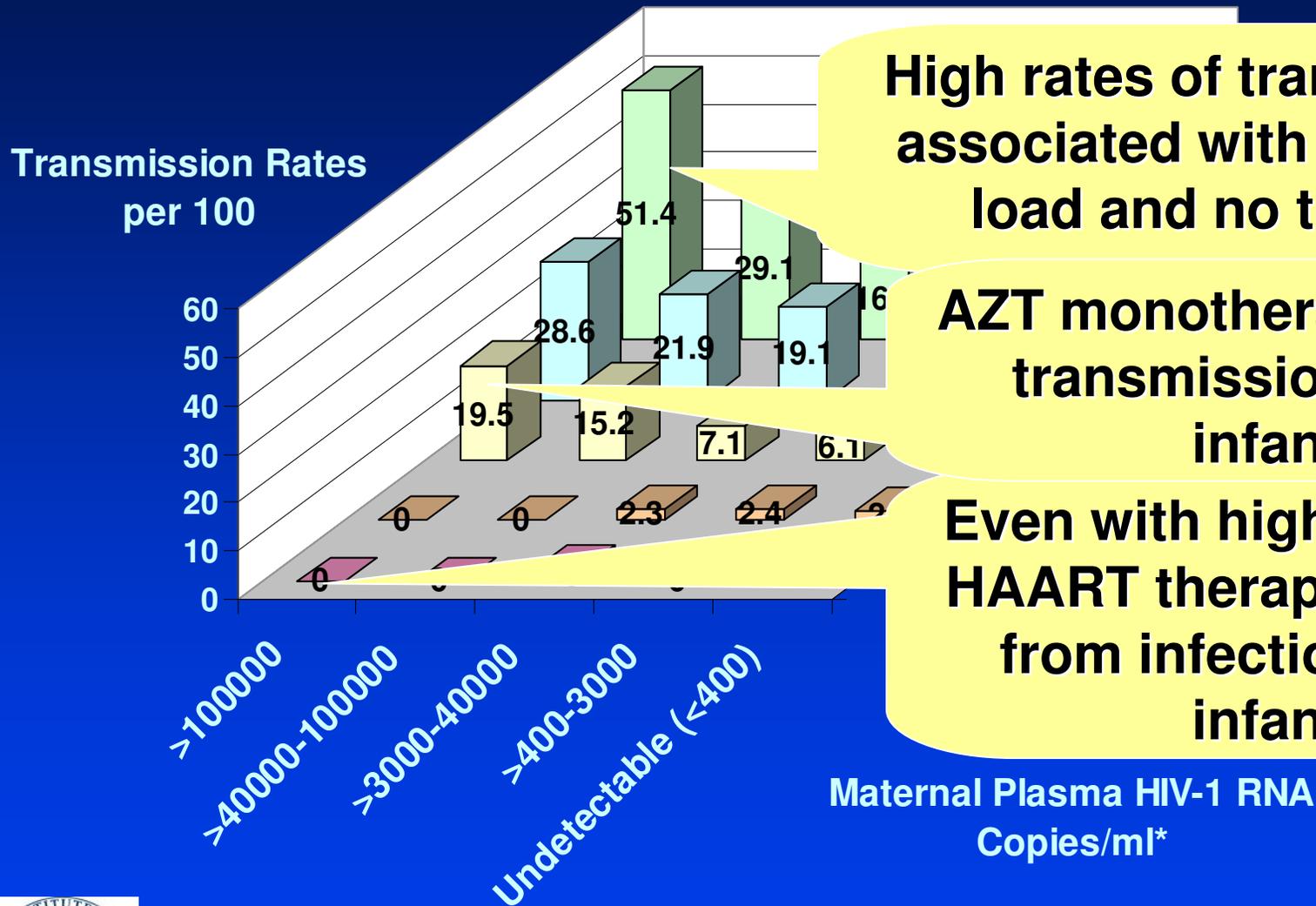


Comments on Status of Science of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission



Maternal Plasma HIV-1 RNA Levels at Delivery and Antiretroviral use During Pregnancy: Impact Transmission



High rates of transmission associated with high viral load and no therapy

AZT monotherapy halves transmission to the infant

Even with high viral load HAART therapy protects from infection of the infant



Source: Cooper, Charurat, ..., Blattner – JAIDS 2002



Comments: Science and PMTCT

- Longer duration of treatment even single drug regimens during pregnancy reduces transmission.
- Data support efficacy of maternal or infant prophylaxis in the 6 month window post partum in context of breast feeding.
- **How can these results be translated into public health practice in PEPFAR?**
- **Do we need further research trials or is the evidence strong enough to change recommendations?**



Comments: Science and PMTCT

- Data suggest that treatment interruption has adverse impacts on morbidity and mortality.
- Data support safety of HAART in pregnancy.
- **Should policy be adopted to provide life long treatment to all pregnant women with CD4 <350 through PEPFAR?**
 - Data suggest heightened risk of drug resistance proximal to single drug prophylaxis that diminishes over time from exposure.
- **Given high rates of treatment failure due to treatment non adherence in the general adult ARV population, is this risk sufficient to impact PEPFAR policy?**



Comments: Science and PMTCT

- **Given the long time from trial initiation to result due mainly to long time to recruit and enroll, can faster results be obtained by accessing high intake PEPFAR cohorts for trial participation?**
- **Some other PEPFAR issues that may or may not be relevant to the “science” research agenda**
 - **Role of primary HIV infection during pregnancy?**
 - **What are the impacts of new pregnancy on ARV outcome in women stably treated with ARV?**
 - **Does Viral subtype matter?**
 - **How do we close the gap in the cascade? Is there a role for behavioral research for example?**

