Comparison of HIV-positive women with children and without children accessing HIV care and treatment in the IeDEA Central Africa cohort

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On behalf of the IeDEA Central Africa Research Consortium

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Background

- Globally, women comprise half of all HIV infections (UNAIDS report on Global AIDS Epidemic, 2010)

- In Central Africa, women comprise 60% of HIV infections (UNAIDS report on Global AIDS Epidemic, 2010)

- Why is the health of women with HIV in Central Africa of particular importance?
Research Questions

• At baseline, are HIV-infected women in Central Africa who have children different than those who do not have children?

• Are HIV+ women with children more likely than those without to be adherent to their HIV treatment regimens?
Materials & Methods

• Data from the IeDEA Central Africa database (excluding Rwanda)

• Analysis performed on 8,419 adult women
  • DRC – 3,289
  • Cameroon – 3,571
  • Burundi – 1,559

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Materials & Methods

- We used chi-square tests to:
  - Examine socio-demographic, behavioral, and clinical characteristics of women with and without children
  - Determine if there was a difference in treatment adherence between these groups
Clinical Characteristics at Entry to Care

• Of the women that we evaluated, 81.7% had children (WWCs) and 18.3% did not (WOCs)
  – DRC: 82%
  – Cameroon: 79%
  – Burundi: 88%

• Taking ARVs at baseline (p<0.05)
  – 38.1% of WWC
  – 33.2% of WOC
Access to Care

Entry into HIV Care and Treatment

% of Women

PMTCT  TB clinic  STI clinic  VCT  No previous care  Other

WWC  WOC

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Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Age (p<0.05)

% of Women

- <18 years
- 18-25 years
- 26-35 years
- 36-45 years
- 46-55 years
- >55 years

WWC
WOC

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Marital Status (p<0.05)

- Single
- Married
- Divorced
- Open Relationship
- Widowed

% of Women

WWC
WOC

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Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Education (p<0.05)

% of Women

- None
- Primary
- Secondary
- University

WWC
WOC

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Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Employment

% of Women

Paid employment

No paid employment

Electricity and Water (p<0.05)

% of Women

Has Power

Has Water

WWC

WOC

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Clinical Characteristics

Baseline WHO Clinical Stage
N=8,368

Baseline CD4 Counts
N=4,007 (p<0.05)
# Health Behaviors

## Alcohol Usage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Women with children</th>
<th>Women without children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol Usage</td>
<td>N= 6,860</td>
<td>N= 1,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>68.3%</td>
<td>69.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once per month</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4 times per month</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or more times per week</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Tobacco/Drug Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Women with children</th>
<th>Women without children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco/Drug Use</td>
<td>N= 6,767</td>
<td>N= 1,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>98.0%</td>
<td>98.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Adherence Results

• Non-adherence: missed doses for two days in a row or more over the last thirty days (self-report)
  – WWCs and WOC were equally likely to report adherence or non-adherence to treatment
    • 5.0% of WWC
    • 4.9% of WOC

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Conclusions

At baseline, are HIV-infected women in Central Africa who have children different than those who do not have children?

HIV-infected women with children tend to:
- be older
- be more likely to be widowed
- have less formal education
- live with fewer amenities
Conclusions

Are HIV+ women with children more likely than those without to be adherent to their HIV treatment regimens?

– Contrary to evidence from studies in the US, there do not appear to be differences in adherence in this population
– Self-reported adherence data has limitations
Conclusions

What does this mean for the women of Central Africa?

• Improved linkages between PMTCT and adult HIV care

• Earlier enrollment in care

• Increased support services for HIV+ women with living children
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