

Factors Associated with Intimate Partner Violence amongst HIV-Positive Women In South-West Nigeria

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**Authors have no conflicts of
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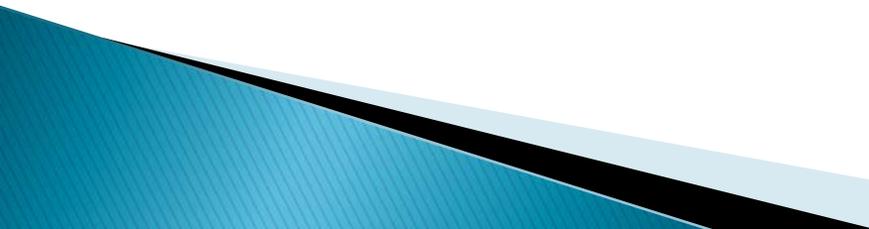
Introduction

- ▶ The prevalence of domestic violence among Nigerian women increased from 21% in 2011 to 30% in 2013.
 - ▶ An estimated two-thirds of these women suffer violence perpetuated by intimate male partners.
 - ▶ Prior studies in Nigeria have shown a correlation between HIV positivity and experiencing domestic violence, among women.
 - ▶ This study was designed to identify different forms of, and factors associated with Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) amongst women living with HIV in South-Western Nigeria.
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Location of Study: Ibadan, SW Nigeria



Materials and Methods

- ▶ This cross-sectional survey was conducted at the ART clinic of a tertiary health facility catering to >1,500 women living with HIV.
 - ▶ A structured questionnaire was used to collect socio-demographic and intimate relationship data from women.
 - ▶ Information regarding IPV before/after HIV status disclosure and consequence(s) of the experience(s) were collected.
 - ▶ IPV forms were defined as physical, sexual, and psychological according to the WHO definition on violence.
 - ▶ Characteristics of respondents who reported IPV were compared to those who did not. Multivariate logistic regression analysis was used to analyze factors that were independently associated with IPV.
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Results I: Pre-Disclosure IPV

- ▶ A total of 328 consented women were interviewed, representing ~ 22% of women living with HIV (WLHIV) accessing care at the facility.
- ▶ Mean age of respondents was 33.1 ± 0.73 years (range 18 to 55 yrs).
- ▶ Nearly 70% (226/328) of women knew their partner's HIV status for the previous 12 months; 32.6% had an HIV- positive, and 36.9% had an HIV- negative partner.
- ▶ In total, 35.1% (115/328) of women experienced any form of IPV: Psychological violence ranked highest (53.9%, 62/115), followed by physical (34.8%) and sexual violence (33.7%).
- ▶ There was a 62.8% (206/328) HIV disclosure rate to partners; 38.3% (79/206) admitted experiencing pre-disclosure IPV, with 50.6% (40/79) experiencing physical, 49.4% (39/79) sexual and 78.5% (62/79) psychological violence.

Results II: Post-Disclosure IPV

- ▶ One hundred and fifteen (115) of 206 disclosing women (55.8%) experienced IPV post-disclosure ($p=0.0004$ compared to incidence of pre-disclosure IPV), with 50.4% (58/115) experiencing physical, 61.7% (71/115) sexual and 98.2% (113/115) psychological violence.
- ▶ **Correlates for post-disclosure IPV were:**
 - **HIV+ partner** ($p<0.0001$)
 - **Older partner age ≥ 40 yrs** ($p<0.0001$)
 - **Lower level of partner's education** (no, or primary-level education) ($p=0.004$)
 - **Any alcohol intake by partner** ($p=0.001$),
 - **Cohabitation** ($p=0.002$), and **marriage** ($p=0.03$)
 - **>1 current sexual partners** (for male partner $p=0.02$, for respondent $p<0.0001$).

| Variables (Total N=328) | N (%) |
|---|--------------|
| Disclosure of HIV status to Partner | |
| Yes | 206 (62.8) |
| No | 122 (37.2) |
| HIV status of Main Partner | |
| Positive | 106 (32.3) |
| Negative | 120 (36.9) |
| Unknown | 102 (30.8) |
| Pre-disclosure IPV (79/206, 38.3%) | |
| Physical | 40 (50.6) |
| Sexual violence | 39 (49.4) |
| Psychological violence | 62 (78.5) |
| Post-disclosure IPV (115/206, 55.8%) | |
| Physical | 58 (50.4) |
| Sexual | 71 (61.7) |
| Psychological | 113 (98.2) |

Conclusions

- ▶ HIV status disclosure increases the risk of IPV in women living with HIV.
 - ▶ Post-disclosure IPV rate strongly correlated with HIV-positive status of the male partner and multiplicity of sexual partners for both individuals.
 - ▶ Fear of post-disclosure IPV among partnered women is likely to discourage disclosure, leading to decreased uptake/access to care, and increased HIV transmission to exposed infants and other partners.
 - ▶ We recommend community-wide IPV education during HIV testing and counseling outreach, and focus on HIV+ male partners in high-burden areas.
 - ▶ Couples' HIV testing and counseling should also be encouraged, to minimize harm to women living with HIV.
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Thank you for your attention!

Daalu!

Ese gan!

Mungode!