PARTNERSHIP DURATION AND HIV SERO-STATUS DISCLOSURE AMONG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS IN LILONGWE, MALAWI

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Conflict of Interest

- Nothing to disclose
HIV sero-status disclosure to sexual partners is an important aspect of HIV prevention, treatment and care.

- Raises awareness, reduces risky behavior and increases adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) and acquisition of support.
- Sero-status disclosure could encourage protective behaviors like use of condoms.
- The association between partnership duration and sero-status disclosure has not been well described.
Methods - Study Design

• Secondary analysis of a cross-sectional of HIV-infected men and women attending the Lighthouse Trust clinics in Lilongwe, Malawi from September 2013 to December 2013.

• Eligibility: Adult clients aged 18 – 45 years registered with the ART clinic and sexually active within the past 6 months.

• Partnership duration categorized as ≤ 1 year and > 1 year.

• Fisher’s exact test, Wilcoxon rank sum test and Logistical regression were used.
• 562 participants in the survey, 308 females (54.8%) and median age of 35 years (IQR 30 - 40).

• Majority were married (n=498, 90.7%), on ART (n=495, 88%) and had disclosed their serostatus to their partner (n=552, 95.3%) at the time of the survey.

• Being married, knowledge of all sexual partners’ HIV sero-status and being on ART were positively associated with sero-status disclosure.

• Participants in a relationship for ≤ 1 year were significantly less likely to disclose their sero-status to their sexual partners than those who were in a relationship for > 1 year (OR = 0.18, 95% CI: 0.06, 0.59)
Conclusion

• HIV-infected individuals in partnership for > 1 year are more likely to disclose their sero-status to their partners.

• Need to focus on couple-based interventions that encourage dialogue and openness between sexual partners within their first relationship year to decrease HIV transmission, encourage treatment and support.
REFERENCES


