

HIV/AIDS, STDs and STIs

October 03-05, 2016 Orlando, Florida, USA

Condom use following ART initiation in TB-HIV co-infected patients

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Consistent condom use is protective against HIV transmission. Despite this, consistent condom use among HIV infected patients remains suboptimal. In a secondary analysis of SAPIt trial data, we assessed the impact of ART initiation and knowledge of HIV status on condom use over time (condom use behavior reported during interviews conducted every 6 months over 24 months) and consistent condom use (condom use reported at last sex act at all 6 monthly interviews conducted at 6-24 months). Among N=642 patients enrolled, 45.8% (294/642) were previously known HIV positive, 50.5% (324/642) tested HIV positive recently and 3.7% (24/642) had missing data. At baseline, 59.2% (174/294) of patients with previous pre-trial knowledge of their HIV status (previously known HIV positive) and 46.3% (150/324) of patients that tested positive at study entry (recently known positive) reported condom use at last sex act, respectively ($p=0.002$). At 6, 12, 18 and 24 months follow-up 78.3% (173/221), 83.5% (172/206), 81.4% (162/199), 83.5% (167/200) in the previously known positive, ($p<0.001$) and 81.3% (174/214), 85% (170/200), 84.6% (165/195), 86% (160/186) in recently known positive ($p<0.001$) patients reported condom use at last sex act, respectively. Reports of consistent condom use in previously known positive vs. recently known positive patients was 41.8% (123/294) and 36.7% (119/324) ($p=0.216$), respectively. Despite an increase in condom use, following ART initiation, levels of use achieved remains suboptimal for effective HIV prevention from known HIV infected individuals. These findings have implications for targeted HIV prevention messaging within ART treatment programs.

Biography

Adele Munsami is a Research Psychologist, completed her Masters in Research Psychology. She is a PhD candidate at the Nelson Mandela School of Medicine, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, exploring HIV associated neurocognitive disorders. She is currently based at the Centre for the Aids Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA), as a behavioral Researcher and a Study Coordinator, under the guidance of Dr. Kogieleum Naidoo, who is a leading researcher in the field of TB-HIV research.

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