

Challenges Faced by Adolescent Girls in Uganda that Affected Timely Delivery of HIV Prevention Services; Observational findings from HPTN084-01 Study at Kampala, MU-JHU Site.

Miscah Babirye Otim, Rosemary Namwanje Mukalazi, Joselyne Nabisere, Biira Florence Asimwe, Emmie Mulumba, Hadijah Nabunya Kalule, Clemensia Nakabiito, Brenda Gati Mirembe, Betty Kamira

Makerere University-John Hopkins University Research
Collaboration, Kampala, Uganda,

NHAS 2023,

15 NOV 2023



CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- I don't have any conflict of interest to declare.

BACKGROUND

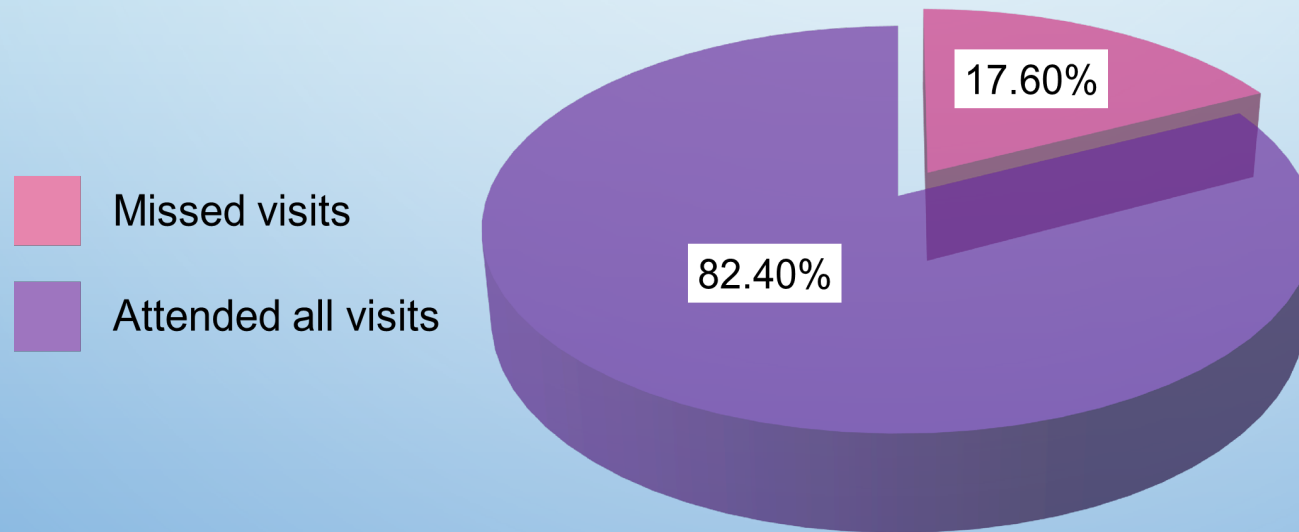
- Adolescent girls continue to be at high risk for HIV acquisition.
- Consistent use of efficacious biomedical HIV prevention products like oral PrEP is key to reducing HIV incidence among adolescent girls in Uganda, in addition to behavioral interventions like risk reduction counselling.
- The HPTN 084-01 study was a study conducted to assess the safety, tolerability and acceptability of long-acting injectable cabotegravir (CAB-LA) for HIV prevention among cisgender adolescent females aged below 18 years.
- We describe the Kampala, Uganda site (MU-JHU) experience on challenges faced by adolescents (16-17 years) that affected timely receipt of their CAB-LA injections or oral PrEP offered in the trial.

METHODS

- Girls aged 12-17 years were enrolled at 3 sites in South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Participants were eligible if they were HIV uninfected, reported sexual activity with a male in the last 12 months, weighed over 35kg, not pregnant or breastfeeding, and willing to provide assent with parent/guardian consent
- Five CAB-LA injections were scheduled at study weeks 5, 9, 17, 25 and 33 followed by 48 weeks of oral TDF/FTC at quarterly visits.
- Throughout the study, participants received HIV counselling, risk reduction counselling and adherence support individually and in group sessions.
- Telephone calls or text reminders were sent prior to scheduled visits with home visits being done for missed visits. Once traced by study staff, participants who did not adhere to their visit schedules shared their experiences which were documented in health visitor visit forms.

RESULTS

- In total, 55 adolescents were enrolled at the 3 sites: median age 16 years. MU-JHU enrolled 17 girls
- Retention in this study was very high with only 3 of the total 17 participants enrolled (17.6%) registering a missed visit(s) .



RESULTS CONTINUED

- Challenges greatly affecting their study visits and PrEP use were:
 - 1) family disputes that led to relocation.
 - 2) mistreatment from stepmothers that motivated participants to run away and decide to marry early.
 - 3) the urge to be independent from tough parents.
 - 4) negative rumors about oral PrEP in the communities.
 - 5) employers not permitting time off to attend study visits.

CONCLUSION

HIV prevention service providers should tailor services to accommodate the socioeconomic challenges that female adolescents face which may hinder their adherence to PrEP provision visits.

Community rumors, myths and misconceptions about PrEP products also need to be addressed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- ❖ The Study Participants and their Parents/guardians
- ❖ The MU-JHU Leadership
- ❖ The HPTN084-01 Study team

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Office of the Director (OD), National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) under award numbers um1 ai068619-15 (HPTN leadership and operations center), um1 ai068617-15
- HPTN 084-01 is also co-funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and support is provided by viiv Healthcare.

