



2: “We give them threatening advice...”: understanding social expectations of adolescents living with HIV and their consequences for adherence to antiretroviral therapy

Thursday, 2 November 2017

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM

📍 Cape Town International Convention Centre - Ball Room West (simultaneous interpretation)

Short Abstract

Background

Adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV) in Sub Saharan Africa experience poorer treatment outcomes than other groups. This study examines adolescents' relationships and social agency in the context of adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) in a rural Malawi setting.

Methods

Group sessions using participatory learning and action tools, in-depth interviews and observations were held in Chiradzulu, Malawi with a range of participants (n=99). These were audio-recorded, transcribed, translated, coded inductively using NVivo 11 software and analysed thematically according to social and relational levels of influence.

Results

Social norms and expectations about young peoples' roles in families, communities and health services interacted with ALHIV's awareness that adherence was important for their health. Failure to follow these norms often led to punishment and ALHIV's experienced limited agency and space to make sense of their HIV status impacting on their ability to adhere to ART.

Discussion/conclusions

These findings help pave the way for services that reach outside the clinic. This has implications for a 'fourth generation' of approaches to HIV/AIDS management focussing on the contextual social environment with household centred approaches and youth friendly health services to create safe spaces for adolescents to discuss adherence to ART.

Authors

Rose Burns

Epicentre/Médecins Sans Frontières

Denview Magalasi

Medecins sans Frontieres

Thandikile Zimba

Medecins sans Frontieres

Thokozani Kalua

Malawi Ministry of Health

Philippe Blasco

Medecins sans Frontieres

Elizabeth Szumilin

Medecins sans Frontieres

Birgit Schramm

Epicentre

Estelle Pasquier

Medecins sans Frontieres

Alison Wringe

*London School of Hygiene and
Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)*



Long Abstract Final.pdf



Extended Abstract

View Related Items

Session: Youth and HIV/AIDS

Theme: Youth and HIV/AIDS