The effect of intimate partner violence on adherence to PrEP and ART in Ugandan HIV serodifferent couples

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BACKGROUND

- Intimate partner violence (IPV) has been identified as a risk factor for and consequence of HIV
- IPV is a relational experience but evaluations of the association between IPV exposure and adherence to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) or ART primarily focus on individuals
- We evaluated the relationship between IPV and adherence to PrEP and ART for both partners in serodifferent couples.

METHODS

- **Location:** 12 public ART clinics in Kampala and Wakiso districts, Uganda that were implementing a program integrating PrEP into ART services for HIV serodifferent couples
- **Outcomes:** PrEP or ART adherence (dichotomized)—determined via self-report or, when available, tenofovir diphosphate (for PrEP) or HIV viral load (for ART) biomarker data.
- **Predictors: 1)** IPV exposure, evaluated using modified Conflict Tactics Scale to assess recent exposure to physical or sexual IPV; **2)** Sexual Relationship Power Scale (SRPS) to evaluate perceived relationship empowerment. Both ascertained via interview-administered questionnaires at 1-month and quarterly visits
- **Statistical analysis:** Separate generalized linear models using binomial regression for outcomes of **1)** low adherence to PrEP and **2)** low adherence to ART

RESULTS

- Enrollment and follow-up spanned from June 2018 to December 2021
- Overall, we observed high ART adherence in 96% of visits among participants living with HIV and high PrEP adherence in 75% of visits for HIV negative participants

149 HIV serodifferent couples enrolled to research

81% of couples married or cohabitating

64% of partners living with HIV were female

28 (24-33)

Age median and interquartile range

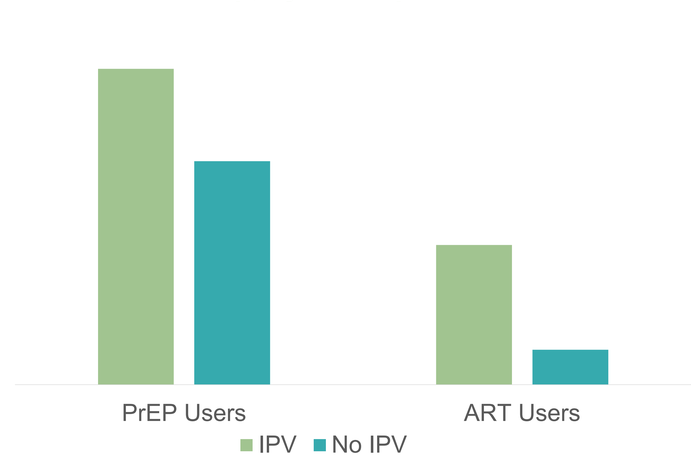
Low adherence was more common when PrEP or ART users reported intimate partner violence.

Statistical assessment of association between IPV and low adherence to PrEP/ART for both partners in serodifferent couples[1,2]

	Negative Partner		Positive Partner	
	OR (95% CI)	p-value	OR (95% CI)	p-value
IPV	2.80 (0.93, 8.52)	0.063	6.89 (1.31, 31.09)	**0.015**
SRPS | ref= Low (0-16)	-	-	-	-
Moderate (17-20)	0.63 (0.39, 0.99)	**0.047**	0.85 (0.29, 2.33)	0.759
High (21-33)	0.70 (0.41, 1.18)	0.191	1.58 (0.55, 4.39)	0.386

[1] Models also adjusted for gender, age and sexual behavior
[2] Findings reflect adherence and IPV at any follow-up visit

Frequency of low adherence across follow-up, by IPV exposure



CONCLUSIONS

- Low adherence was more common when PrEP and ART users reported IPV exposure, compared to when they did not report experiences of IPV
- IPV exposure is significantly associated with low ART adherence

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