

Partners of People Living With HIV (PLHIV): Findings From the Positive Perspectives Survey

B Allan,¹ D Garcia,² B Spire,³ S Marcotullio,⁴ M Krehl,⁴ M Muchenje,⁵ A Namiba,⁶ K Parkinson,⁷ B Young,⁸ Y Puneekar,⁹ A deRuiter,⁹ F Barthel,¹⁰ J Koteff,¹¹ A Ustianowski,¹² A Murungi,⁹ V Carr⁹

¹ICASO and Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine, Victoria, Australia; ²European AIDS Treatment Group, Madrid, Spain; ³French National Institute for Medical Research (INSERM), Paris, France; ⁴Nadir Onlus, Rome, Italy; ⁵Women's Health in Women's Hands Community Health Centre, Toronto, ON, Canada; ⁶Salamander Trust, London, UK; ⁷Beacon Project, St Louis, MO, USA; ⁸International Association of Providers of AIDS Care, Washington, DC, USA; ⁹ViiV Healthcare, Brentford, UK; ¹⁰GlaxoSmithKline, London, UK; ¹¹ViiV Healthcare, Research Triangle Park, NC, USA; ¹²Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, Manchester, UK



Introduction

- We conducted an international survey of people living with HIV (PLHIV) and their partners to explore the following¹:
 - Emotional impact and challenges of being in a relationship with someone living with HIV
 - Support given and received as partners
 - Partner's perspective of HIV management

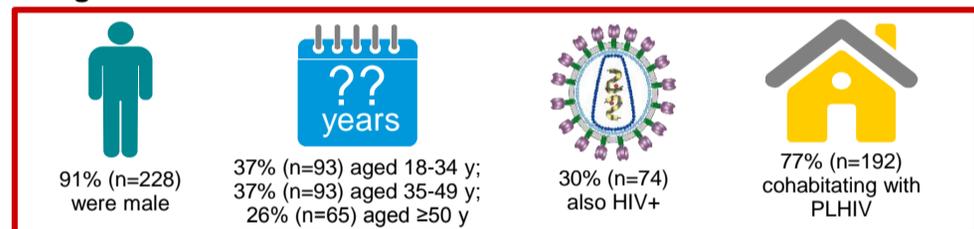
Methods

- An international, multidisciplinary steering committee developed the survey, which was conducted from November 2016 to July 2017 in 9 countries across North America, Europe, and Australia
 - Initial 60-minute interviews were conducted with partners of PLHIV to inform development of the survey
- Partners of PLHIV were recruited through local and national charities, patient support groups, AIDS service organizations, nongovernmental organizations, HIV online communities, and social media
 - Partners were included if they were aged ≥18 years and married to, in a civil partnership with, or in a cohabitating relationship with an HIV-seropositive person
 - Additionally, partners had to claim to be involved in their own partner's support system
- Once eligibility was verified, partners were sent a URL link to the online survey

Results

- 250 partners of PLHIV completed the survey (Figure 1)

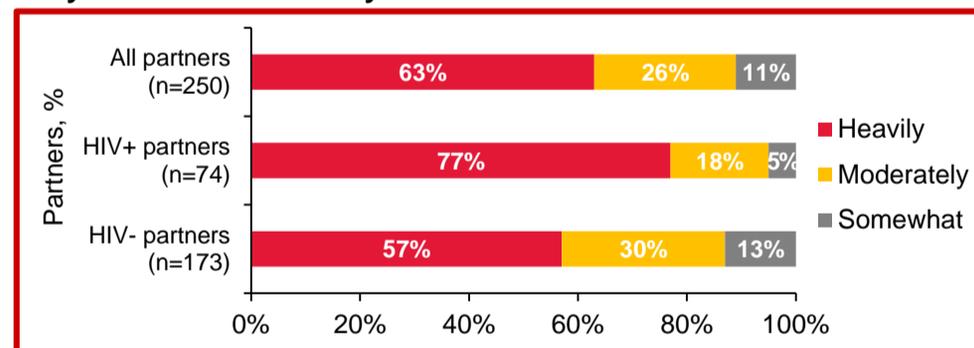
Figure 1. Partner Baseline Characteristics



PLHIV, people living with HIV.

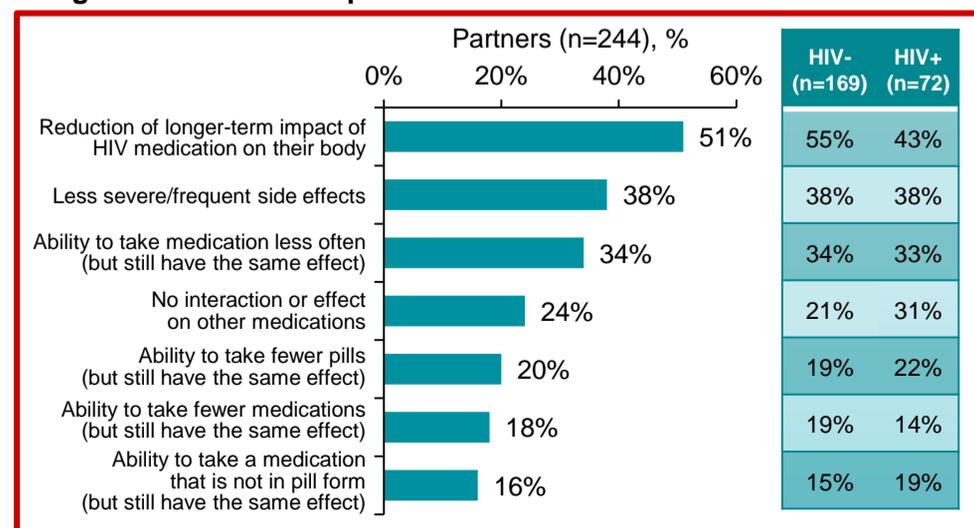
- Most partners of PLHIV reported being heavily involved in their own partners' support system (Figure 2)

Figure 2. Partner Involvement in Their Own Partner's Support System—Overall and by HIV Status



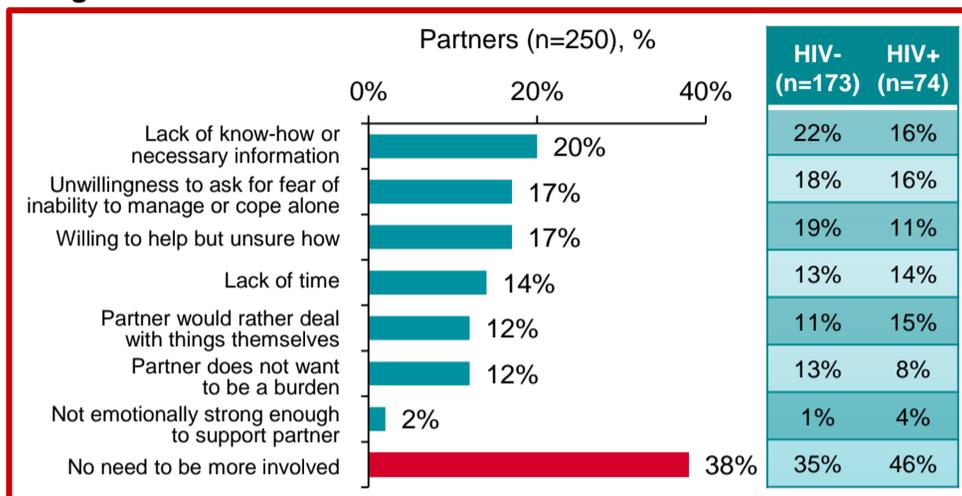
- Partners felt that reductions in longer-term impacts of HIV medication and severity/frequency of medication side effects would be best for their own partner (Figure 3)

Figure 3. Partner Perception of What Would Be Best for Their Own Partner



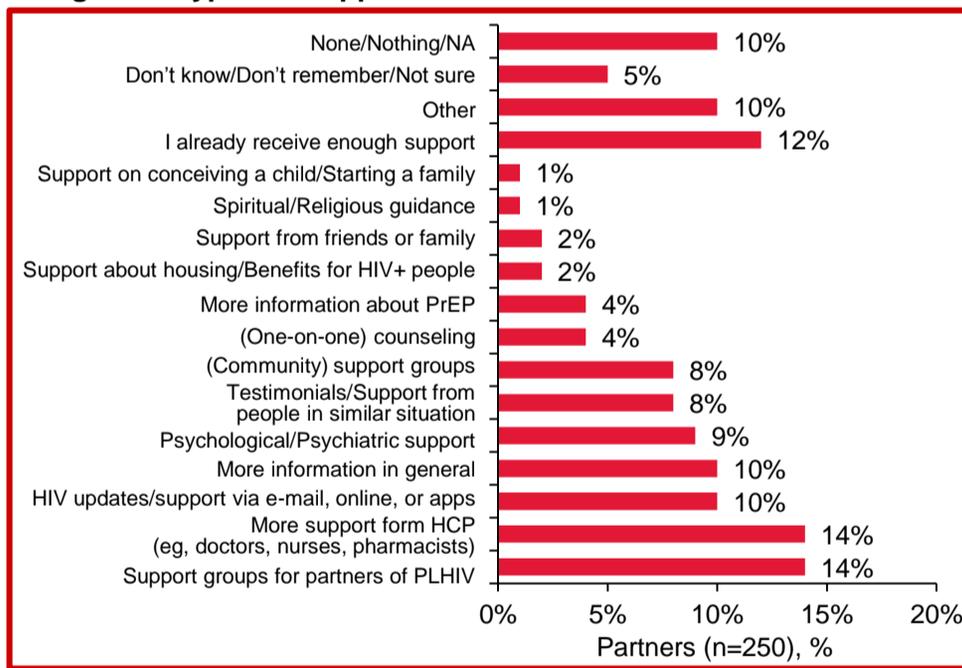
- 78% of HIV-positive partners (n=74) vs 53% of HIV-negative partners (n=173) rated the emotional support available to them as quite good or very good
- The majority of partners want to be more involved in their own partner's HIV care but reported various challenges to greater involvement (Figure 4)
- Lack of information or understanding how to help was especially true for younger partners of PLHIV

Figure 4. Barriers to Involvement



- HIV-negative partners (n=173) preferred to receive emotional support from their own partner (47%), their partner's primary HIV healthcare provider (HCP; 38%), or a professional counselor (31%)
- Overall, partners (n=250) felt that having a wide range of support resources available to them would be useful (Figure 5)

Figure 5. Types of Support Partners Would Find Most Useful



HCP, healthcare provider; NA, not applicable; PLHIV, people living with HIV; PrEP, pre-exposure prophylaxis.

Conclusions

- Partners represent a vital source of support for PLHIV, the extent of which may be affected by their own HIV status or the perceived overall health of the person living with HIV
- Nearly two-thirds of partners were involved in discussions on treatment, and partner concerns regarding side effects and long-term impact of antiretroviral therapy were frequent
- Partners who wished to be more involved were limited by lack of knowledge
- Dedicated resources could help inform partners of PLHIV how to provide better support; a wide range of support systems, similar to those available for PLHIV, would be useful for partners as well
- As a trusted group, HCPs can take a more active role in providing information, resources, and support to partners of PLHIV

Reference: 1. Morcillo DG, Spire B, Marcotullio S, et al. Partners of people living with HIV (PLHIV): findings from the Positive Perspectives Survey. Presented at: 22nd International AIDS Conference; July 23-27, 2018; Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
 Acknowledgments: This study was funded by ViiV Healthcare. Fieldwork and data collection were conducted by GfK UK Limited. Editorial assistance and graphic design support for this poster were provided under the direction of the authors by MedThink SciCom and funded by ViiV Healthcare. Data included in this poster have been previously presented in full at the 22nd International AIDS Conference; July 23-27, 2018; Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Abstract TUPED420.