PARTNERS OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV (PLHIV) : FINDINGS FROM THE POSITIVE PERSPECTIVES SURVEY.

Authors:
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 Punekar[9], A deRuiter[9], F Barthel[10], J Koteff[11], A Ustianowski[12], A Murungi[9], V Carr[9]

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

Background:
While the psychosocial effect of treatment and the support available for People Living with HIV (PLHIV) have been evaluated, gaps remain in understanding their influence on partners. We conducted an international survey of partners of PLHIV exploring the support offered to them and their partner's perception of their HIV management.

Methods:
Qualitative in-depth interviews were performed with PLHIV and their partners to identify key hypotheses. A steering group developed survey questions which were fielded online from November 2016 to April 2017 in 9 countries across North America, Europe & Australia. A broad cross-section of PLHIV and partners of PLHIV was obtained using a mixed sampling/recruitment approach.

Results:
250 partners of PLHIV completed the survey from Europe (55%), North America (43%) and Australia (2%). 91% were male, 26% aged ≥50 years, 30% HIV+ themselves, and 77% lived with their partner. Results differed between HIV+ and HIV-ve partners: emotional support available to partners of PLHIV was rated 'quite' or 'very' good in 78% HIV+ partners and 53% in HIV-ve partners. Partners of PLHIV stated they provided emotional support (87%) and encouraged their partners to raise concerns with their HIV healthcare provider (HCP) (80%), yet >50% of partners want more involvement in these areas and 20% feel they sometimes lack the information needed for this role.

Of those whose partners were on ART (98%), 63% helped their partner prepare for an appointment with their HIV HCP, raised concerns about side effects (82%), strategies to reduce long-term impact of ART (62%) and the possibility of switching regimen (59%).

Conclusion:
~66% of partners were involved in treatment discussions and were most often concerned about side effects and the long-term impact of ART. Partners represent

an important support system for PLHIV. Dedicated resources to inform partners could enable more involvement in their support of PLHIV.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:
This study was sponsored by ViiV Healthcare.