THE INFLUENCE OF PARTNERS ON THE REPRODUCTIVE DECISION-MAKING OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV

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INTRODUCTION

- Worldwide, 37 million people are living with HIV, 49% are women
- Rising pregnancy rates among women living with HIV (WLHIV)
  - Increased life span of HIV-infected women of childbearing age
  - Increased awareness of low risk mother-to-child transmission (MTCT)
  - High Activity Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) during pregnancy
  - Neonatal prophylaxis
  - Avoidance of breastfeeding
  - Scheduled c-sections
- MTCT is estimated to be less that 2% in developed countries
INTRODUCTION

- Clinical and pharmacological advances within the last decade have produced excellent improvements in pregnancy outcomes among WLHIV.
- The study of social factors influencing reproductive decision-making in WLHIV have not kept pace.
- The literature suggests that Significant Others (SO) play an important and influential role in reproductive decision-making of WLHIV.
- The aim of this study was to identify the role and impact significant others play in WLHIV reproductive decision-making.
METHODS

- The subset of data regarding WLHIV was extracted from a larger overarching systematic review (42 articles) regarding the reproductive decisions of women living with HIV.
- Articles published from 1990 through 2016 were retrieved from the databases CINAHL, Pubmed, Scopus, ISI Web of Knowledge, Cochrane Library, Embase and Psychinfo
- Keywords searched were “pregnancy,” “reproductive,” “decision-making,” “HIV,” “AIDS,” & “women.”
- Only articles originally published in English and conducted in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) were included to maintain the focus on developed countries.
RESULTS

- 9 studies were included in this review
- Conducted in the United States, Canada and Australia
- Qualitative, quantitative, and systematic review designs were included.
- The mean age of participants was 33.76 years (SD=6.62)
- The husband/partner and family were those identified as the main SO having an impact in the reproductive decision-making process in WLHIV
- Society and group support also appear to be influential but to a lesser degree
- SO’s responses ranged from supportive to unsupportive therefore having positive and negative impact.
MULTIFACETED MANAGEMENT

Management of HIV-Positive Pregnant Women

- Obstetrical Management
- Examinations and Investigations
- Medical Treatment During Pregnancy
- Antiretroviral Therapy
- Antenatal Care
- Care During Labour and Delivery
CONCLUSIONS

- Health care providers need to keep up to date on advances in HIV care for women
- Non-judgmental and unbiased care
- When caring for WLHIV it is important to identify their SO and the impact they may have in their reproductive decision-making
- Strategies to help WLHIV to make informed decisions along with their SO must be designed, implemented and assessed for those relationships in which the SO has an impact on the reproductive decision-making process