Discussion Brief: Research on HIV Prevention with Positive Interventions
By Anat Rosenthal, PhD; Reviewed by Sophie Beauvais, Peter Ehrenkranz, MD

In its Living 2008: The Positive Leadership Summit Report, the Global Network of People living with HIV: GNP+ defines positive prevention (PP) as “an approach to prevention that seeks to increase the psychosocial well-being of people living with HIV (PLHIV) and encourage solidarity amongst and for PLHIV” and has been recommended by UNAIDS (the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) since 2005.

In this discussion, members exchange information about new and ongoing studies on PP interventions in naïve HIV positive populations for risk reduction (sexual, PMTCT, disclosure, HIV testing, and discordant partners or with unknown HIV status) in South Africa, Uganda, Rwanda, Canada and the U.S.A.

Key Points
• To members’ knowledge, no randomized controlled trials (RCT) on positive interventions have been conducted yet.
• Positive prevention interventions are difficult to study with RCT as the positive patient is the intervention, but the sexual contact is the outcome (thus various other factors affect risk).
• Cohorts in discordant couples have been reported from both Uganda and Rwanda indicating thresholds for viral load and transmission risks.
• Vancouver University has a cohort of discordant couples in Jinja, Uganda.

Key References
• 2009 Compendium of Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Interventions, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (English).
• Clinician-Initiated Prevention Intervention for HIV Positives, University of Connecticut, Centers for Health Intervention and Prevention (English).
• Positive Prevention by and for People Living with HIV Discussion Paper. GNP+, August 2008
• ClinicalTrials.org: 13 studies found for “Positive Prevention in naïve populations” (external link)
• AIDS Clinical Trials Group (external link)

Enrich the GHDonline Knowledge Base
Please consider replying to this discussion with the following information
• References to literature on studies of positive intervention and prevention
• Experience on positive prevention interventions in resource-limited settings

You may use this brief for informational, non-commercial purposes with credit attribution: The Global Health Delivery Project, GHDonline.org, June 9, 2011. Please see our Terms of Use for more information.