



Assessment of Knowledge, Attitude and Practices of Condom Use among People Living With HIV/AIDS in Nekemte Referral Hospital, West Ethiopia

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this study was to assess the knowledge, attitude and practices of People Living with HIV/AIDS attending Nekemte Referral Hospital, ART clinic service. This study was a descriptive cross-sectional survey which investigated the knowledge, attitudes and practices of PLWHA on ART care using structured questionnaires at Nekemte Referral Hospital in west Ethiopia. A total of 333 questionnaires were distributed to respondents that came to fill their ART prescriptions over the period from March 1, 2015 to March 30, 2015. with 100% response rate, the mean score of knowledge was 4.92 out of 6 (82.05%) that means 95.8% of PLWHA taking ART medication at NRH were familiar about condom; while, 63.7% of them attended condom demonstration session. Again, 84.1% respondents knew that the correct use of condom will prevent HIV/AIDS transmission; while, 79.0% of them only know that condom can prevent also other sexually transmitted infections unlike 83.5% who knew that it can prevent pregnancy. Also, 86.2% of respondents expressed that condom use will reduce chance of getting HIV virus and transmitting to others. More than half, 53.8%, of the respondents reported that they had used condom at least once, while 46.2% have never used condom in their life time to today. They exposed that about 40% of them were requested by their sexual partner to make sex without condom, even 25.8% enforced not to use condom at sexual intercourses. On top of that, 29.4% of PLWHA on ART at study site had more than one sexual partner. With good news, 78.7% of total respondents take a care for their sexual partner's life. Only 62.8% of them feel happiness when they hear about condom, with similar breath merely 36.9% feel complete satisfaction during sexual intercourse by using condom, moreover, 45.6% of the respondents fear carrying and using condom; surprisingly, only 73% of them believe that condom can prevent HIV transmission, while 56.8% of the respondents have a plan to use a condom in the future for all their sexual intercourse. The mean score of attitude was 2.75 out of 5 (55.02%) which was under negative attitude category. From the foregoing the following can be concluded as the knowledge of PLWA using ART service at Nekemte referral Hospital is not on the stand of taking down the HIV infection plan to take to zero level. Even the practice of using condom at every sexual practice is very poor relative to expected 100% condom use for a person infected with this virus. At the same time, the attitude of above stated study

group towards condom use is not good to the degree that can become stumbling block to our common goal about the pandemic virus.

Keywords: People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWA), Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART), knowledge, attitude, practice.
