



The Challenges of Participation of Women in HIV Vaccine Trials: (unpublished data)

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Objectives



- To establish the socio-economic position of female candidates in HIV vaccine clinical trials
- To assess if HIV vaccine clinical trial participants understand the complex nature of the procedures and believe that they have autonomous decisional capacity



Methods (1)



- Identified the enrolment practices and outcomes by gender for HIV vaccine trials in developing countries generally, and in Southern Africa, specifically.



Methods (2)



- Conducted a systematic study of the sites with the best enrolment strategies to identify key factors associated with best practice in enrolment and retention outcomes by gender



Results (1)



- Rural women must potentially be regarded as vulnerable populations as their social position is compatible with the criteria outlined by UNAIDS' guidance defining vulnerability in the context of HIV vaccine trials.



Results (2)



- Women's social inequality and their vulnerability to HIV are interdependent.



Discussion & Conclusions



- Women's active informed participation in clinical trials and prevention efforts is vital, especially that they are among the most vulnerable populations
- In particular, women's distinct vulnerability to HIV means that vaccine trials must include women because vaccines have to be tested in high-risk groups



Future perspectives



- Women must be included in vaccine research with special consideration to ethical issues because of their infective and social vulnerability.
- Study the preparedness of local communities for hosting HIV vaccine trials