

Interim report

Date of sending out the form:

Sunday, October 18, 2020

Contact person/applicant:

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Latvia

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Title of the granted project

Contraception among HIV-positive women - knowledge, experience and factors that influence the choice

Amount granted by the ESC (in euro)

3500

Initial funding (part of the grant received already) in euro:

2625

Final amount to be paid by ESC (in euro):

875

Project number:

P-2018-B-02

Allocated mentor:

S. Ozalp

Date project actually started:

Monday, April 1, 2019

Planned date of completion:

Saturday, October 31, 2020

Have there been any problems or issues with starting or continuing this project? If so, what impact will that have on your planned completion date?

At the beginning of the research, there was a problem in obtaining the respondents. The Latvian Center of Infectious Diseases did not agree to cooperate, so we sought additional cooperation organizations. The study is currently being conducted by the non-governmental support group for people living with HIV and AIDS "AGIHAS" (www.agihass.lv) and support centre for those affected by HIV/AIDS "Dialogs" (www.diacentrs.lv).

The research group is also challenging, as it takes more time to obtain the respondents as we collect data

through interviews. Financial support from the ESC increase response from respondents as the gift card they receive is a great motivator to participate in the research. We now have 102 filled questionnaires.

Have you discussed the project status and any problems with your Mentor?

Yes, we would like to get as many answers as we can until the end of October and then see, what we can do further. Timing with Covid-19 pandemic and other factors made this research more challenging.

Please provide a synopsis of your findings and data so far (max 500 words)

Preliminary results- project "Contraception among HIV-positive women - knowledge, experience and factors that influence the choice".

Data are analysed using Microsoft Excel and SPSS 22.2.

COVID 19 has decreased the speed of recruitment of women living with HIV (WLHIV). Until October 16, 102 WLHIV participated in the research.

Mean age was 33 years (SD 7.3; range 19-55). Only 7.9% (n=8) of respondents had higher education. 81.4% (n=83) received antiretroviral therapy, for 45.1% (n=46) viral load was undetectable. 98% (n=100) women were heterosexual, 85.3% (n=87) were in relationship, 78.4% (n=80) of women partners were informed about women HIV status. When asked about what contraceptive methods women are aware of, 91.2% (n=93) mentioned condoms, 70.6% (n=72) - coitus interruptus, 68% (n=70) - hormonal contraceptive pills, 55.9% (n=57) - non-hormonal IUD, 43.1% (n=44)- hormonal IUD, 48% (n=49) - calendar method, 41.2% (n=42) - male sterilization, 42.2% (n=43) - female sterilization and 54.9% (n=56) were aware of emergency contraception. 57.8% (n=59) of women received information about contraception from friends, 59.8% (n=61) - from a gynecologist, 52% (n=53) - from internet and 46.1% (n=47) - from brochures. When women were asked to evaluate the efficiency of contraceptive methods, 85.3% (n=87) noted condoms as very effective, 41.2% (n=42) said that coitus interrupts was not an efficient method. 85.3% (n=87) were aware that condoms prevent from STIs and HIV. 33.3% (n=34) consider emergency contraception as a method similar to abortion. 79.4% (n=81) of women who participated in research had sexual relations during last 12 months, 71.6% (n=73) with steady partner. 77.4% (n= 65) noted that their partner used condoms - in 48% (n=49) of cases to prevent pregnancy, in 51% (n=52) - to prevent HIV transmission, in 34.3% (n=35) - to prevent from other STIs. 52.9% (n=54) of women said they were the ones who took responsibility about contraception. 15.7% (n=16) of women who had sexual relations did not use contraception. 28.7% (n=29) had financial problems to get contraception, 35.3% (n=36) could not consult a gynaecologist because they had no money.

74.2% (n=72) of women were satisfied with their sex life. 17.6% (n=18) said that they have some sex life problems (for example, unable to get an orgasm, no interest in sex, etc). Women were asked which factors were important to them when they choose contraception, 81.9% (n=77) said that it was important to prevent a partner from HIV, 66% (n=62) said that price was an important factor, 33% (n=31) as an important factor noted no need for partners involvement in contraception choice. 28.7% (n=29) had financial problems to get contraception, 35.3% (n=36) could not consult a gynaecologist because they had no money.

To conclude, WLHIV have knowledge about different kinds of contraceptive methods, but still, they have misconceptions about some methods and often they are not aware of the efficiency of the methods. Further data analysis is needed to see the connection between the level of education and knowledge about contraception and other factors which are addressed in the study.

Please provide a current budget on how much you have spent to date. Receipts may be requested.

The current budget on how much has been spent to 17 October 2020: 1151,49 EUR

Date	Item	Amount
18.03.2019	15 gift cards x 10 Euro	150.00 Euro

16.09.2019	Copy pro printing	9.25 Euro
18.03.2019	15 gift cards x 10 Euro	150.00 Euro
26.09.2019	30 gift cards x 10 Euro	300.00 Euro
26.09.2019	Copy pro printing	11.00 Euro
13.11.2019	20 gift cards x 10 Euro	200 Euro
30.06.2020	30 gift cards x 10 Euro	300 Euro
30.06.2020	Copy pro printing	31.24 Euro

Add any other information you feel we should have at this stage.

This report was submitted by one of the researchers (Ieva Pitkēviča) of the research project "Contraception among HIV-positive women - knowledge, experience and factors that influence the choice"

Full Name

Ieva Pitkēviča

Date

Sunday, October 18, 2020

Questions? ESC Central Office: info@escrh.eu / Tel. 0032 2 582 08 52

Once received and assessed, you will be contacted regarding the final payment.

Type a question

info@escrh.eu