**PIII-10: Intimate Partner Violence, Treatment Adherence, and Disease Progression Among HIV-Infected Women: A Pilot Study**

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**Abstract Categories:**
Research Interest Groups (RIGs): Minority Health  
Thematic Areas: Women's Health

**Abstract:**
**Introduction:** The purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between partner violence, treatment adherence and disease progression in HIV-infected women. Over one-half of all new infections globally occur in women. Women are disproportionately affected by partner violence; such violence has been reported as a barrier to care-seeking. Substance abuse, depression, and traumatic life experiences have been shown to adversely impact adherence to antiretroviral therapy and disease progression, but there is limited research specifically examining partner violence in relationship to disease progression and treatment adherence. Literature review elucidates the need to explore the relationship between partner violence, treatment adherence, and disease progression to develop effective interventions for HIV-infected women who experience partner violence.
Method(s): It is hypothesized that HIV-infected women who have experienced partner violence in the past 12 months will have higher HIV RNA viral loads as a result of poor treatment adherence and greater immunosuppression evidenced by lower CD4 counts compared to infected women who do not report partner violence in the past 12 months. Thirty HIV-infected women receiving care at a specialty clinic in southeast Texas will be interviewed using the Severity of Violence Against Women Scale and the Danger Assessment instruments. This case control study will compare cases of partner violence to cases not reporting partner violence. The sample will include non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic blacks and Hispanic women in each group. Demographic data and survey responses will be collected on the date of interview of each woman; other demographic data and laboratory results for the previous 12 months will be abstracted from the medical record.

Results: Preliminary finding will be available in February 2010. Analysis of descriptive statistics and correlations for specific variables will be performed on collected data.

Discussion & Conclusions: Results are expected to provide foundation for a larger research study examining this problem. Such a study could identify interventions to decrease barriers to care and antiretroviral adherence, as well as facilitate immunocompetence in HIV-infected women experiencing partner violence.

Abstract History:
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

Financial Disclosure:
No, I (or a member of my immediate family) have not received something of value* from or own stock (or stock options) in a commercial company or institution related directly or indirectly to the subject of my presentation.

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