



Clinical HIV Research Unit

HPTN052 Johannesburg - Wits

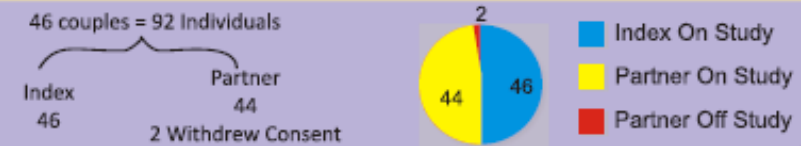
The Clinical HIV Research Unit (CHRU) is an HIV/AIDS research syndicate affiliated to the Wits Health Consortium, which is a wholly owned subsidiary company of the University of the Witwatersrand in Gauteng, South Africa. CHRU is situated within an Academic Hospital, namely Helen Joseph Hospital in Gauteng, South Africa.

CURRENTLY ENROLLED

46 Couples



RETENTION RATE



RETENTION CHALLENGES

- Breakdown in relationships between participants in a couple – Accounts for 2 partners that have left the study. Trying to assist the participants to stay together and resolve issues is very challenging for the counselling staff.
- Relocation for work purposes makes it difficult for both partners in a couple to come for visits together so this results in split visits but these couples still keep to the visit schedule
- Working couples have difficulty getting time off work to attend visits and often want to come in early so they can still attend work after attending their clinic visits. Extra effort is put in by staff to accommodate these couples.
- Potential future problems – changes in South African National Guidelines regarding timing of initiation of ARVs may be in conflict with protocol requirements.

RETENTION STRATEGIES

- Participants are phoned for appointment reminders
- If participants are late or do not arrive for a visit they are phoned to find out why and to rebook if necessary
- Home visits are done if the participants do not respond to phone calls
- The unit has a Toll-Free number available for participants to phone if they are experiencing problems
- Psycho-social support from Social work department for those couples who require extra support
- Transportation is available for participants that are too ill to come to clinic on their own



FUTURE PLANS

- To implement a support group for discordant couples

