COVID-19 IMPACT ON HIV PREVENTION TRIALS: A SITE PERSPECTIVE

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Status of the epidemic in Brazil

- First case reported in SP in Feb 25, 2020
- The disease has spread to every state in Brazil by 21 Mar

Oct 5th, 2020:
- 4,915,289 total cases
- 146,352 total deaths

Last 7 days:
- 25,967 additional cases
- 660 additional deaths

Covid-19 platform - cases (https://covid.saude.gov.br/)

24 September 2020
Measures to prevent COVID 19

Prior to study visit

• Frequent contact with participants for visit scheduling and retention
• In the evening prior to the visit: phone interview to apply a structured COVID-19 signs/symptoms questionnaire
• For symptomatic participants:
  – Study visit cancelled
  – COVID-19 testing and medical evaluation on site
  – Recommendations to remain in quarantine with daily monitoring by the study team until lab results and remission of the symptoms, before rescheduling their study visit
  – Inpatient care available for cases that need hospitalization.
• Monitoring of participants who choose not to attend study visits
Measures to prevent COVID 19

On site

- Review of study visit schedules to reduce the number of visits per day with sufficient time interval to decrease the burden of participants at the site.
- Efforts to reduce duration of visits to reduce the time spent at the site.
- Provision of individualized transportation to minimize participants’ exposure.
- Adaptation of waiting spaces (open air) to allow for proper physical distancing at the various stages of the study visit.
- Signs & symptoms questionnaire and temperature screening upon arriving at the site.
- All study visits performed in offices with HEPA filters, with study personnel using PPE.
COVID 19 Pandemic

HPTN ongoing studies at FIOCRUZ, RJ

- 883 visits (Mar-Sept 2020)
- 90% planned visits performed
- 101 participants with Covid-19 suspicion evaluated by telemedicine/site
  - 55 quarantined participants
  - 4 COVID-19 cases
  - 14 participants refused to come at some point (4 currently)

- 52 active participants (Mar-Sept 2020)
  - 2 quarantine
  - 3 refused to come
  - 92% planned visits performed
  - 10 participants to perform final visit (anticipated to late Nov)
Social inequalities and COVID-19 economic impact

- 20% of population lives in poverty
- An estimated 12 mi inhabitants live in overcrowded “favelas”, lacking piped water and proper sanitation
- Black people with no schooling: 4-times higher chance of dying from COVID-19
- Lack of specific policies for indigenous people, underreport of cases and deaths
- Mortality rates are the highest among Brazilian prisoners.
- Black, low schooling, low income MSM and TGW had higher odds of unattainability of social distancing recommendations.
- Distribution of monthly basket food goods and cooking gas voucher

Malta et al, Lancet 2020; Torres et al, 2020
Summary

• Building an environment where study participants can safely have study procedures and offering reimbursement for individual transportation were essential measures to continue performing study visits at our site.

• The capacity in place to offer clinical care, SARS CoV2 testing and hospitalization for any study participant with Covid 19 was a key element to keep high levels of retention.

• Providing a monthly basket of food and a cooking gas voucher to the most vulnerable was also very useful to keep participants adherence to study visits.
FIOCRUZ HPTN 083 TEAM - COMMUNITY AWARD 2019