

# Parent/Guardians Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions on Long-Acting Injectable Cabotegravir (CAB LA) for HIV Prevention and Study Participation in HPTN 084-01 Study: Tales from Mu-JHU, Kampala Site

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## Background

- Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) are vulnerable to HIV. Various factors namely, social, cultural, and economic put AGYW at risk of acquiring HIV hence the need for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).
- Several HIV biomedical PrEP products are approved like oral PrEP, dapivirine vaginal ring, and most recently long-acting cabotegravir (CAB LA).
- We share parents'/guardians' knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions on CAB LA and on study participation in the HPTN 084-01 study following the release of CAB LA results in the parent HPTN 084 study. Noting parents'/guardians' perceptions of PrEP will have an impact on whether adolescent girls will be allowed to access PrEP.

## Methods

- HPTN084-01 assessed the safety, tolerability, and acceptability of long-acting Cabotegravir for HIV prevention among adolescents under 18 years in Uganda, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. We describe the Kampala site experience.
- MUJHU enrolled 17 adolescents and following the release of CAB LA results, the study team disseminated findings to Parents/Guardians and sought their views on CAB LA through a dialogue on 11 Mar 2022.

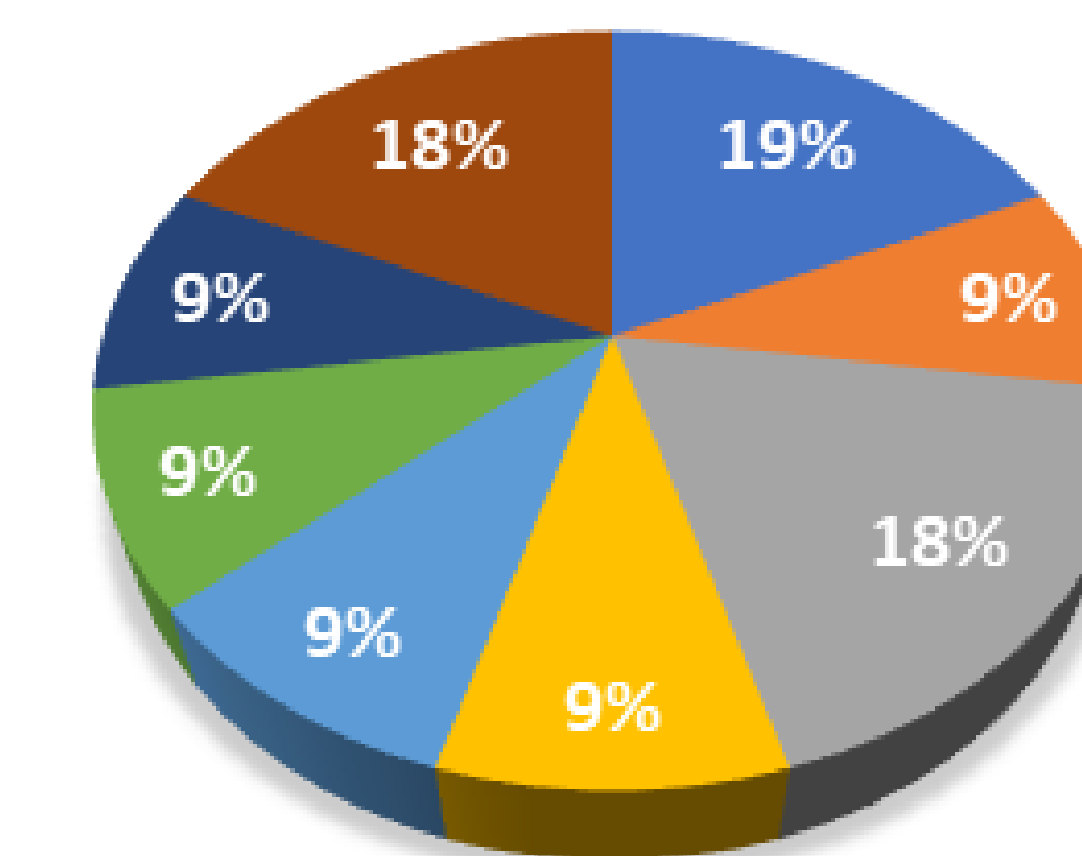
## Results

11 out of 17 parents/guardians attended the dialogue, and all eleven shared their views as follows:

### Attitudes and perceptions about CAB LA included:

- CAB LA causing: cervical cancer, barrenness, change in one's DNA, loss of body weight thus stigmatized as HIV positive in the community, researchers injecting trial participants with the HIV virus and injections causing swellings in the buttocks muscle eventually causing deformation.
- Causing cancer and changing one's DNA were the most common perceptions (4 of 11). 2. Study participation will lead adolescents perceived as prostitutes, researchers take blood to sell and manipulate African genes.

Parents/Guardians' Knowledge/Attitudes/Perceptions about CAB LA



■ Causes Cancer ■ Causes Infertility ■ Changes DNA  
■ Wight loss ■ Contain HIV ■ Deformation of Buttocks  
■ Perceivd as prostitutes ■ Swelling on buttocks

- Some of the quotes about CAB LA from the parents/guardians included.

"I was worried the injection would change the DNA of my child, but after talking with the Health workers I got reassurance" **Father to Adolescent participant**

"I was told by women in the community that my granddaughter would become infertile if she is given that injection, I was very worried because I wish to see my great grandchildren" **Grandmother to Adolescent participant**

- These were addressed by providing accurate information to parents/guardians during the group dialogue, and opportunities for one-on-one counseling for those who still had concerns. The most difficult perception to correct was the fear of swelling of the injection site. Counseling messages were developed to dispel myths, nurses reassured participants before the injection guiding them on what to do in case of swelling or pain.

## Conclusions

- Parents/guardian and community engagement sessions will be important during the rollout of Cabotegravir for adolescents to dispel any community myths and misconceptions about products for effective uptake.