

BACKGROUND

- Consistent use of efficacious biomedical HIV prevention products is key to reducing HIV incidence among adolescent girls in Uganda, in addition to behavioral interventions like risk reduction counselling.
- The HPTN 084 01 study was conducted in South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe to assess the safety, tolerability and acceptability of long acting injectable cabotegravir (CAB LA) for HIV prevention among cisgender adolescent females aged below 18 years.
- We describe the Kampala, Uganda site (MU JHU) experience on challenges faced by adolescents that affected timely receipt of their CAB LA injections or oral PrEP offered in the trial.



HIV prevention service providers should tailor services to accommodate the socioeconomic challenges that female adolescents face which may hinder their adherence to PrEP provision visits.

METHODS

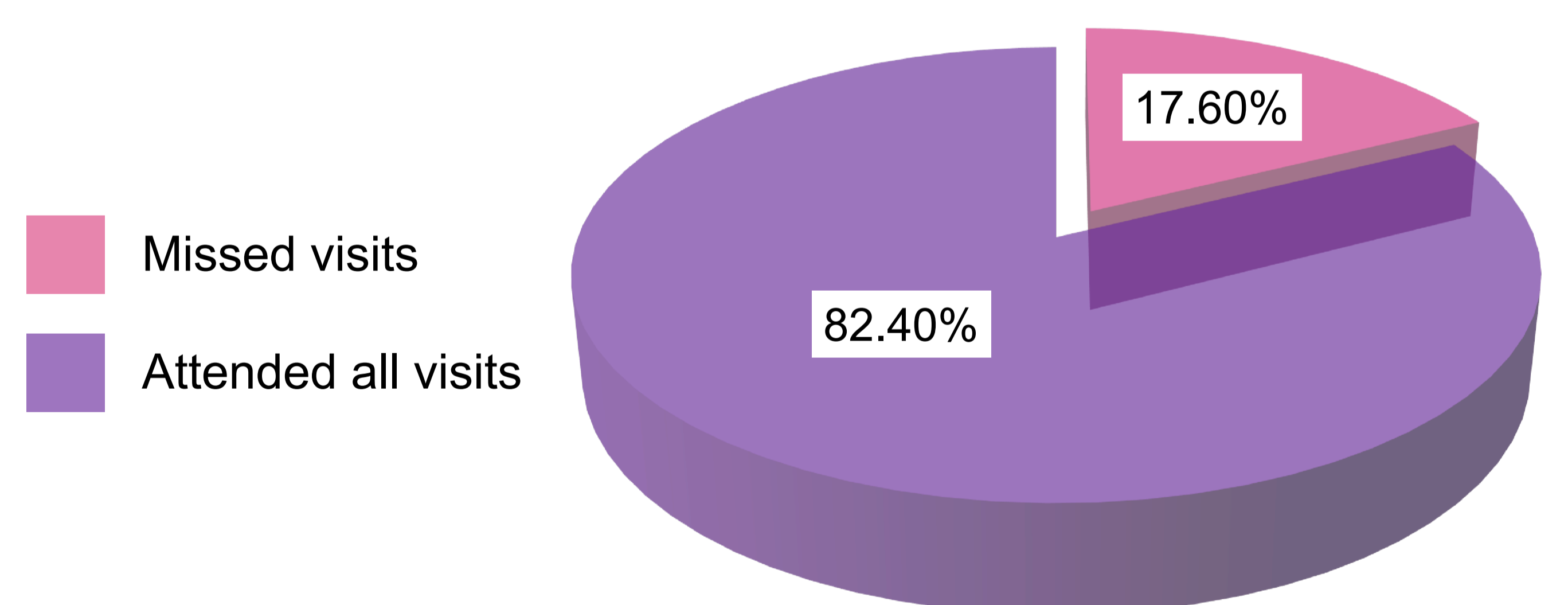
- Five CAB LA injections were scheduled at study weeks 5, 9, 17, 25 and 33 followed by 48 weeks of oral TDF/FTC at quarterly visits.
- Throughout the study, participants received HIV counselling, risk reduction counselling and adherence support individually and in group sessions.
- Telephone calls or text reminders were sent prior to scheduled visits with home visits being done for missed visits.
- Once traced by study staff, participants who did not adhere to their visit schedules shared their experiences which were documented in health visitor visit forms.

CONCLUSIONS

- HIV prevention service providers should tailor services to accommodate the socioeconomic challenges that female adolescents face which may hinder their adherence to PrEP provision visits.
- Community rumors, myths and misconceptions about PrEP products also need to be addressed.

RESULTS

- Retention in this study was very high with only 3 of the total 17 participants enrolled (17.6%) registering missed visits as shown below.



- Challenges greatly affecting their study visits and PrEP use were:
 1. Family disputes that led to relocation.
 2. Mistreatment from stepmothers that motivated participants to run away and decide to marry early
 3. The urge to be independent from tough parents
 4. Negative rumors about oral PrEP in the communities
 5. Employers not permitting time off to attend study visits.