CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE HIV POSITIVE WOMAN DURING MENOPAUSE

Dr. Sharon Walmsley
University Health Network, Toronto, Ontario
Canadian HIV Clinical Trials Network
Objectives

■ To review the epidemiology of HIV and older women
■ To review the diagnosis and management of menopause in WLWH
■ To review what is known about the unique features of menopause in WLWL
■ To discuss the impact of menopause on the outcome of HIV in women

No conflicts in relation to this talk but I do have lived experience
The HIV population is aging

- New diagnosis in older persons
- Improved survival of those with HIV infection

AC Bourgeois¹, M Edmunds¹, A Awan¹,², L Jonah¹, O Varsaneux¹, W Siu¹
Do we meet the first 90?
Are older women being tested for HIV?

- 15–30% of women ages 55 and older have previously been tested for HIV
  - Not perceived to be at risk
  - Women don’t want to be tested
  - Concern re: intimate partner violence
  - Sexual activity (risk) often not discussed
  - Symptoms attributed to “aging” or “menopause” or “depression”

- If tested often late when present with OI and have high mortality and poor outcomes

Siegel K et al, AIDS Care 1999; 11(5):525-35; Harawa NT et al, Sex Trans Dis; 2011; 38(12):1110; Akers A, J woman Health 2007 ;16(6) 842
Are older women at increased risk of HIV acquisition?

- **Behavioral**
  - Midlife changes in relationship status
  - Power imbalances, mental health issues, substance use
  - Less condom use and other prevention methods

- **Biological**
  - Elevated % R5+CD4+ T lymphocytes in cervix may increase the risk for HIV acquisition in post-menopausal vs pre-menopausal women.
  - Elevated R5 expression on cervical CD4+ T cells may be related to aging.
  - Further research is needed to determine if these changes are primarily due to aging or changes in female sex hormones that occur at menopause.

Our populations of Women living with HIV are aging

Median age
men = 52

Median age
women = 48

Active patients – UHN Toronto
Menopause

when I asked for a smoking hot body, menopause was not quite what I had in mind!
What is Menopause?

- defined as the absence of menstrual periods for 12 months.
- Loss of ovarian follicular activity
- The process of *menopause* does not occur overnight, but rather is a gradual process.
- The peri-menopausal transition period is a different experience for each woman.
How do you determine the time of menopause?

■ By history
■ Endocrine hormone levels- LH, FSH
■ Anti- Mullerian hormone levels- AMA- produced by ovarian follicles, measure of ovarian reserve

■ the average age is 51 in the United States
What have been the issues related to HIV and Menopause?

- Does it occur earlier?
- Do HIV infected women have more symptoms than the general population?
- How can you differentiate symptoms of menopause from those of HIV?
- How should it be managed?
- Is this a time of increased comorbidity?
- Is this a time to reconsider ARV?
Does it occur early?
If so- Why would we be concerned?

- < 45 years of age - early menopause
- < 40 years of age - premature menopause (less than 2 SD below the mean)
- In the absence of any pathological process - surgical, chemotherapy or radiation therapy
- Associated with long-term health risks which may include premature death, cardiovascular disease, neurologic disease, osteoporosis, psychosexual dysfunction, and mood disorders
Average age of menopause for HIV positive women?

- Data is conflicting- no impact to 12% premature menopause- many reports of approximately 2 years earlier

- Early menopause is associated with substance use, low body weight, smoking, ethnicity

- Data is conflicting as to association to HIV viral load and CD4 cell count

- Why might it be earlier?
  - Lymphocyte activation and inflammatory mediator impacting ovarian signalling
  - Impact of HIV or OI on ovaries and pituitary axis

• N=232
  o 53% white, 22% ACB, 19% indigenous
  o 39% IDU
  o 95% cART, 87% < 50/ml
• Median age of menopause 48yr (IQR 43,51) – by self report
• 29% < 45 years
Potential contributors to early onset of menopause in women with HIV

- **Immunosuppression**: Lower CD4+ count has been associated with early menopause onset.
- **Smoking**: Menopause can occur up to 1–2 years earlier in smokers, compared with non-smokers.
- **Socioeconomic status**: Markers of low socioeconomic status (e.g. lower level of education, unemployment and poverty) have been associated with early menopause onset.

References:
- de Pommerol (2011) Int J STD AIDS;
- Cooper (1999) Epidemiology;
Menopausal symptoms

- Hot flashes, sleep disturbance,
- Mood changes, vaginal dryness
- 85% of women in general population
- Median duration of 7.4 years
- Affected by: ethnicity, social economic status

- Negative impact on quality of life, performance at work and in relationships
- Data in WLWH mixed- no consistent association

Schnall R, Menopause 2018 25(7); 744-52
Do HIV+ women have increased menopausal symptoms?

• Being HIV+ increased the likelihood of experiencing menopausal symptoms by between 24-65% across studies
  • Higher prevalence of hot flushes, psychological complaints, reduced sexual interest, reduced concentration

• Increase in symptoms associated with
  • Socioeconomic status, depression, three or more negative life events

1Ferreira C, Pinto-Neto A et al. Gynecol Endocrinol, 2007; 2Miller S, Santoro N. Menopause 2005
HIV and menopause in the UK

- N=140, WLWH > 45 years age
- Higher anxiety scores and severe depression compared to WLWH < 45 years
- Menopause Specific Quality in Life Questionnaire
  - *High reports of distressing symptoms*
  - *35/57 did not seek help for symptoms*

Menopausal symptoms are associated with psychological distress in HIV+ women

Shema Tariq, Fiona Burns, Alexandra Rolland, Caroline Sabin, Lorraine Sherr, Richard Gilson (on behalf of the PRIME Study Group)

Institute for Global Health, University College London, UK

An analysis of cross-sectional data on 710 women recruited to the PRIME Study (Positive Transitions Through the Menopause), an observational study of WLWH aged 45-60 attending HIV clinics across England in 2016-2017.

Table 2: Association of severe somatic and urogenital symptoms with the following outcomes: (i) distress, (ii) anxiety, and (iii) depression (multivariable analyses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Adjusted odds ratio (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i) Psychological distress</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe somatic symptoms</td>
<td>4.90 (2.71, 8.88)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe urogenital symptoms</td>
<td>2.66 (1.74, 4.01)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) Anxiety</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe somatic symptoms</td>
<td>3.79 (2.27, 6.35)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe urogenital symptoms</td>
<td>3.17 (2.03, 4.94)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iii) Depression</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe somatic symptoms</td>
<td>3.43 (2.04, 5.76)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe urogenital symptoms</td>
<td>2.90 (1.81, 4.64)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*adjusted for ethnicity, employment status, education, basic needs met, and high risk alcohol use*
Association of HIV status with sexual function in women aged 45-60

Nasreen Toorabally, Catherine H Mercer, Kirstin Mitchell, Fiona Burns, Richard Gilson, Caroline Sabin, Shema Tariq (on behalf of the PRIME Study Group)

1Institute for Global Health, University College London, UK; 2Institute of Health & Wellbeing, University of Glasgow, UK

An analysis of cross-sectional data of sexually active women aged 45-60 from two national datasets from England:

- The 3rd National Survey of Sexual Attitudes & Lifestyles, a national probability sample survey (HIV-negative women, N=1699)
- The PRIME Study (Positive Transitions Through the Menopause), a convenience survey of midlife women living with HIV (WLWH, N=336) attending HIV clinics across England.

Table 2: Associations between sexual function and HIV status (reference group HIV-)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Natsal-3 (HIV-)</th>
<th>PRIME (HIV+)</th>
<th>Adjusted odds ratio</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=1228b, 1677b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>N (%)</td>
<td>(95% CI)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low sexual function</td>
<td>342 (20.4)</td>
<td>133 (42.6)</td>
<td>3.87 (2.35-6.38)</td>
<td>&lt; .001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacked interest in sex</td>
<td>642 (38.3)</td>
<td>163 (52.2)</td>
<td>2.79 (1.50-5.16)</td>
<td>.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacked enjoyment in sex</td>
<td>217 (13.1)</td>
<td>102 (32.7)</td>
<td>4.19 (2.08-8.41)</td>
<td>&lt; .001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felt anxious during sex</td>
<td>59 (3.5)</td>
<td>54 (17.3)</td>
<td>4.90 (2.55-9.42)</td>
<td>&lt; .001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical pain due to sex</td>
<td>126 (7.5)</td>
<td>52 (16.7)</td>
<td>2.92 (1.91-4.46)</td>
<td>&lt; .001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No arousal during sex</td>
<td>146 (8.7)</td>
<td>90 (28.8)</td>
<td>3.42 (1.98-5.91)</td>
<td>&lt; .001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No orgasm/took long time to reach orgasm</td>
<td>25 (14.9)</td>
<td>97 (31.1)</td>
<td>2.92 (1.78-4.75)</td>
<td>&lt; .001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reached orgasm too quickly</td>
<td>40 (2.4)</td>
<td>23 (7.4)</td>
<td>1.79 (0.33-9.66)</td>
<td>.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaginal dryness</td>
<td>288 (17.2)</td>
<td>86 (27.6)</td>
<td>2.27 (1.37-3.77)</td>
<td>.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced ≥1 problem</td>
<td>911 (54.3)</td>
<td>215 (68.9)</td>
<td>2.61 (1.54-4.45)</td>
<td>&lt; .001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Unweighted denominator; bWeighted denominator; cAdjusted for ethnicity, age, number of chronic conditions, depression and ongoing relationship status; dUsing Natsal-SF
Does menopause negatively impact HIV?

- No studies have shown either an impact on CD4 cell count or response to cART

Imaj K, Obst Gyne Int, 2013
HIV– and HIV+ post-menopausal women.

Cellular markers of T cell activation, exhaustion, and senescence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HIV- women</th>
<th>HIV+ women</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CD38+ HLA-DR+ CD4 (%)</td>
<td>1.69±0.95</td>
<td>3.21±1.87</td>
<td>0.0313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD38- HLA-DR+ CD8 (%)</td>
<td>2.08±1.39</td>
<td>10.17±13.26</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ki-67+ CD4 (%)</td>
<td>0.39±0.22</td>
<td>0.63±0.29</td>
<td>0.0260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ki-67+ CD8 (%)</td>
<td>0.32±0.09</td>
<td>0.34±0.18</td>
<td>0.6913</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Soluble markers of immune activation and microbial translocation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HIV- women</th>
<th>HIV+ women</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monocyte/macrophage activation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sCD14 (ng/ml)</td>
<td>1.57±0.25</td>
<td>2.11±0.60</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sCD163 (ng/ml)</td>
<td>322±155</td>
<td>533±260</td>
<td>0.0043</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

T cell activation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HIV- women</th>
<th>HIV+ women</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sCD35 (ng/ml)</td>
<td>257±151.2</td>
<td>390±245.6</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cytokines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HIV- women</th>
<th>HIV+ women</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IL-6 (pg/ml)</td>
<td>0.85±0.17</td>
<td>1.86±0.44</td>
<td>0.0728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-8 (pg/ml)</td>
<td>4.30±0.52</td>
<td>6.57±1.25</td>
<td>0.0192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-10 (pg/ml)</td>
<td>3.31±1.18</td>
<td>10.74±6.65</td>
<td>0.0134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNF-α (pg/ml)</td>
<td>7.02±1.43</td>
<td>9.58±1.93</td>
<td>0.1959</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Microral translocation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HIV- women</th>
<th>HIV+ women</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LPS (pg/ml)</td>
<td>90.2±21.4</td>
<td>107±40.6</td>
<td>0.0223</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expression of activation (CD38, HLA-DR, Ki-67), exhaustion (PD-1) and senescence (CD28, CD57, CD127) markers was evaluated by flow cytometry in live CD4 and CD8 T cells. Cryopreserved PBMC were thawed and rested overnight before staining with VIVID and monoclonal antibodies and subsequent acquisition on a flow cytometer. Gating strategy for the phenotypic analysis of T cells was performed as follows: Lymphocytes were gated based on forward and side scatter, and gates for exclusion of singlets and dead cells (VIVID+ events) were drawn. Statistical differences between groups were analyzed by Student t-test. Significant P values are shown in bold.

Comorbidity of HIV infected women in Ontario

Morbidity prevalence by age group among men and women with HIV versus the Ontario general population.

Kendall et al, BMC Public Health, 2014
Impact of Decreased Ovarian Reserve in HIV-infected women

- Undetectable Anti-Mullerian hormone levels
- 49 HIV+ and 25 HIV-
- Of the HIV+ those with undetectable AMH had a higher prevalence of coronary atherosclerotic plaque (52 vs 6%, p<0.01), noncalcified plaque (48 vs 6%)
- Associated with higher levels of sCD163 and MCP-1
- Holds when controlled for CVD risk

Looby et al, AIDS, 2016
HIV infection and CVD in women: Veterans Aging Cohort Study

N = 2187 women (32% HIV+)

HIV women had an increased risk of CVD
HR 2.8, 95% CI 1.7, 4.6, p<0.001

Unadjusted Kaplan-Meier’s curves showing CVD-free survival by HIV status.
CVD indicates cardiovascular disease.

Womack et al; JHA 2014
HIV infection and women and ischemic stroke

Fig. 1. Incidence rates for ischemic stroke in women from the Partners HIV cohort stratified by HIV status and age.

Chow et al, AIDS, 2018
Ischemic stroke in HIV infection

Chow et al, AIDS, 2018
Bone Mineral Density and Osteoporosis

- Shown to be increased in HIV
- Risk factors include IVDU, cocaine, race
- Associated with ARV especially tenofovir and when combined with protease inhibitor
  - *Tenofovir-alafenamide may have less effect*
- NRTI sparing strategies show less BMD loss
- Associated with increased fracture risk especially in post menopausal women

Increased Fracture Incidence in Middle-Aged HIV-Infected and HIV-Uninfected Women: Updated Results From the Women's Interagency HIV Study

Risk factors in multivariate model: HIV, age, white race, cocaine, IVDU

Co-morbidity considerations for WLWH

- Cardiovascular disease
  - increased risk in HIV and increased with premature menopause—no data on CVD outcomes

- Bone mineral density and osteoporosis
  - increased with age, HIV and ARV, few women in the TAF studies

- Mental health
  - a period of increased depression
  - WHIS study of 835 WLWH compared to a control group of 335 HIV negative women
  - no significance in difference in prevalence of depression between the two groups during menopause
  - odds increased in both groups in early peri-menopausal period
Does menopause impact ARV drug concentrations?

Is it
- Aging
- Menopause
or
- declining renal function?

Patterson, CROI, 2011
Tenofovir
Women Interagency HIV Study (WIHS)

- N=105 HIV + women
- Mean age 41, 70% African American
- Persons with the highest baseline Tenofovir AUC tertile had significantly lower eGFR compared to those in lowest tertile
- By year 7 the difference widened

Baxi et al., AIDS, 2016
Raltegravir levels in the blood of HIV negative and HIV positive pre and post menopausal women

Managing the menopause in women with HIV

- Strategies to offset effects associated with menopause include:
  - Healthy lifestyle choices e.g. exercise and diet
  - Smoking cessation
  - Adherence to effective ART
  - Symptom management
  - Alternative therapies
  - Vaginal lubricants

- If these strategies don’t help then Hormone replacement Therapy (HRT) can be considered

The controversies around HRT

- Slight increase risk of stroke, DVT/PE, CVD and breast cancer
- No increase in endometrial cancer
- Reduced risk of colon cancer and hip fractures
- Improvement in vasomotor symptoms

- Poor compliance
- Adverse effects- breast soreness, weight gain, depression
- Cost
- Timing, active ingredient, route, duration

Hormone replacement therapy in HIV

- There are no studies in WLWH
- PI/r, cobicistat, and NNRTI may impact menopause hormone levels due to effects on cytochrome p450 enzyme activity
- Need to titrate hormone levels to desired effects
Menopause hormonal therapy in HIV

- Studies in WLWH show rates of use of < 10%
- Concerns
  - increasing pill burden and impacting adherence
  - increased risk of CVD (additive to smoking and dyslipidemia)
  - increased breast cancer risk
  - HIV has 2-10X increased risk of venous thromboembolism which could be additive to estrogen replacement (transdermal estrogen may confer less risk)
- Recommendations follow that of the general population- if used at the lowest possible dose and for as short as possible
Conclusions

- The prevalence of HIV infection in older women is increased.
- Differences in the age of onset, rate of menopausal symptoms and link to comorbidity relative to the general population is debated.
- The peri-menopausal period is a time to reconsider cART and potential for additive comorbidity.
- HCT may be useful to control vasomotor symptoms and decrease fracture risk but may have increased risks.
- Drug interactions with cART must be considered.