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Managing the HIV/AIDS risks in subsaharan African couples. The roles of polygamy and co-residency

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Managing the HIV/AIDS risks in subsaharan African couples.

The roles of polygamy and co-residency.

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Session 42: Gender, health and mortality (2)



anRS



Institut de recherche
pour le développement



Inserm

Institut national
de la santé et de la recherche médicale



ECOLE NATIONALE SUPERIEURE DE STATISTIQUE
ET D'ECONOMIE APPLIQUEE

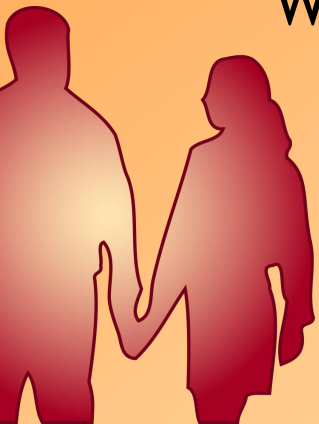


Context

- ✘ In subsaharan Africa, HIV prevention remains largely insufficient
- ✘ The prevention mainly depends on the relationship existing between man and woman within the couple
- ✘ In Africa, conjugal union can take multiple forms
- ✘ We explore here two characteristics of the union :
 - ✘ To have a co-wife or not
 - ✘ To live with the partner or not

Which are related to :

- ✘ The communication on HIV within the couple
- ✘ HIV preventive practices used by the couple



Hypothesis

× Hyp 1 :

when a woman shares her partner with a co-wife

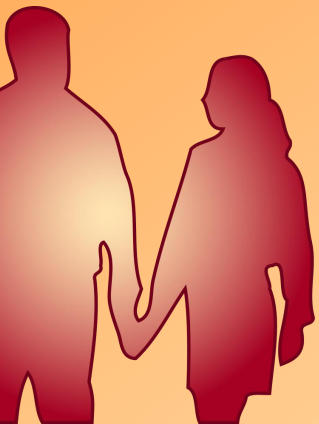
⇔ the male domination is stronger

⇔ there is competition between co-wives

→ Dialogue with the partner is more difficult

→ Women less keen to suggest HIV test or the use of condom to their partner

→ not in favour of the adoption of HIV preventive practices

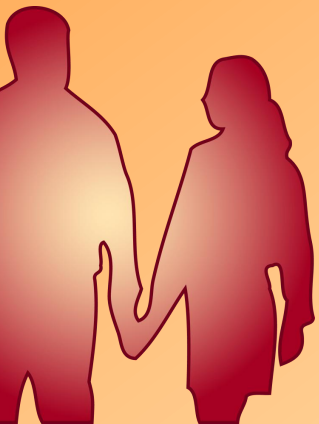


Hypothesis 2

✘ Hyp 2 :

- ✘ Over the last decades new forms of polygamy have appeared in Africa. These are non official and characterised by non co-residency of the partners.
- ✘ This can be related to a greater autonomy for women

**→ in favour of the
adoption of HIV preventive practices**



Objective : to explore the links

Co-residency
of the partners

Polygamy
(existence of a co-wife)



Gender
relationships

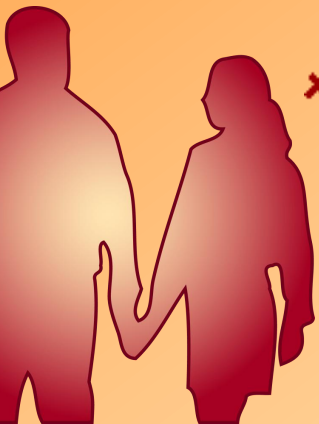


HIV prevention



The present research :

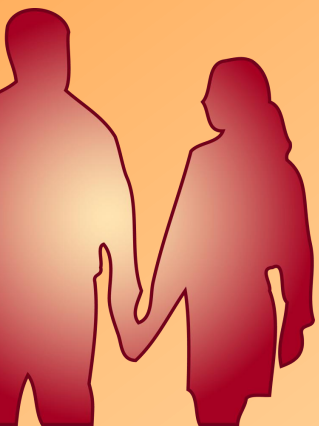
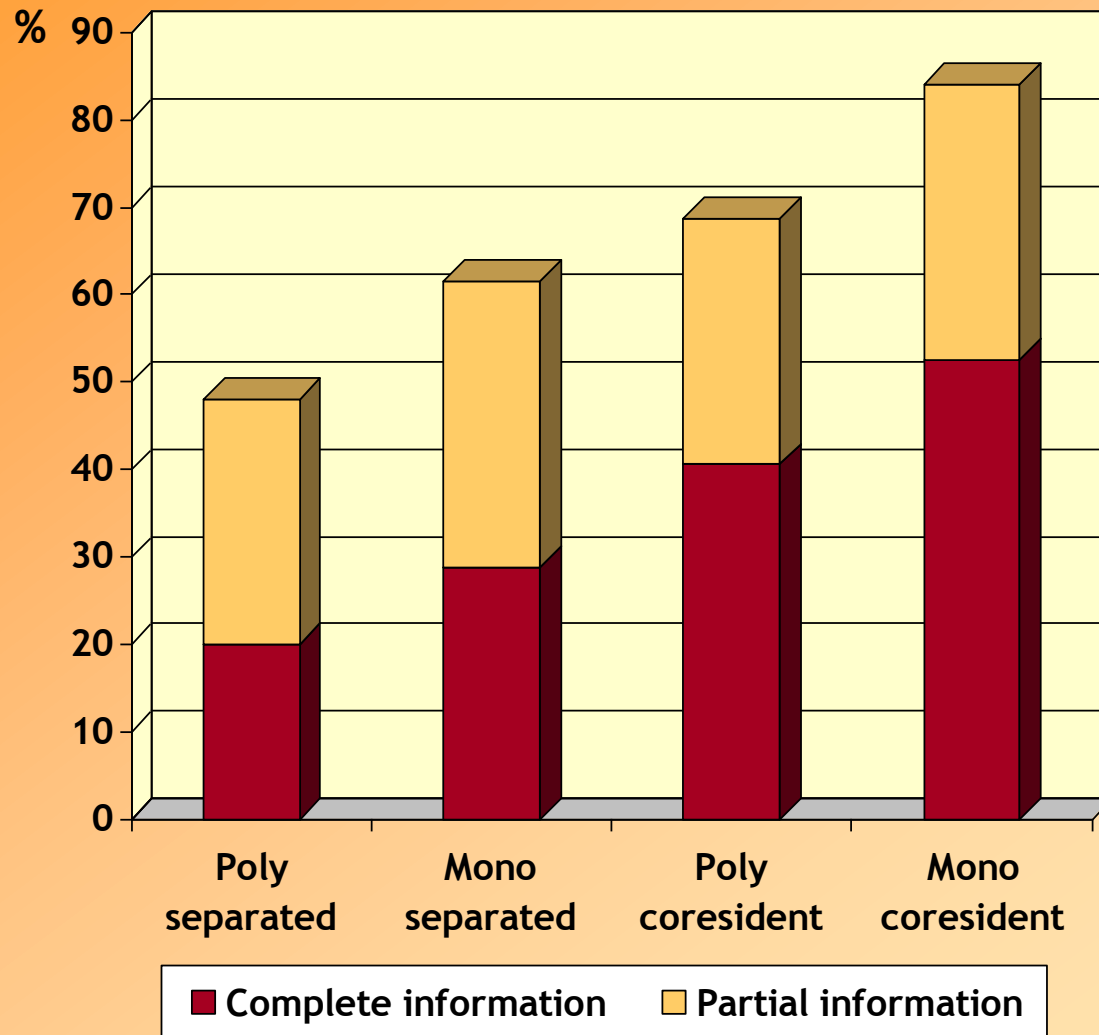
- ✘ Social science part of a Prevention of the Mother-to-Child HIV transmission programme
- ✘ 322 HIV+ women and 353 HIV- women HIV tested during a pregnancy and followed 18 months after delivery
- ✘ Indicators of **risk management** :
 - ✘ Indicators of communication about HIV within the couple
 - ✘ Indicators of HIV preventive practices
- ✘ Variables :
 - ✘ **About couple characteristics** : polygamy, partners co-residency, partners age difference, woman HIV status
 - ✘ **For adjustment** :
 - ✘ for both partners : age, level of education
 - ✘ for women only : religion, remunerated activity, living conditions, age at first sexual intercourse



Communication around STD/HIV within the couple

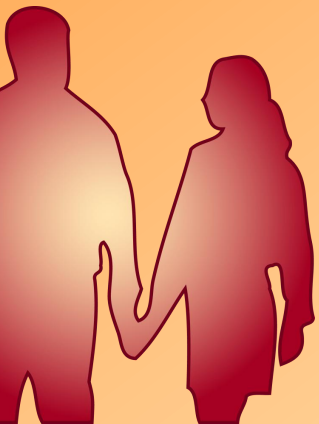
	BEFORE HIV test	AFTER HIV test		
Dialogue indicator woman/partner	Has discussed STD with partner	Has discussed STD with partner	Has notified partner of her own HIV test	Has suggested for the partner to be HIV tested
HIV- women	65%	96%	98%	91%
HIV+ women	29%	63%	51%	70%

Communication about STD/HIV between HIV+ women and their partner, after HIV test, by the kind of union

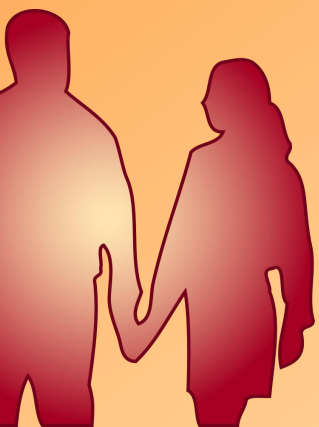
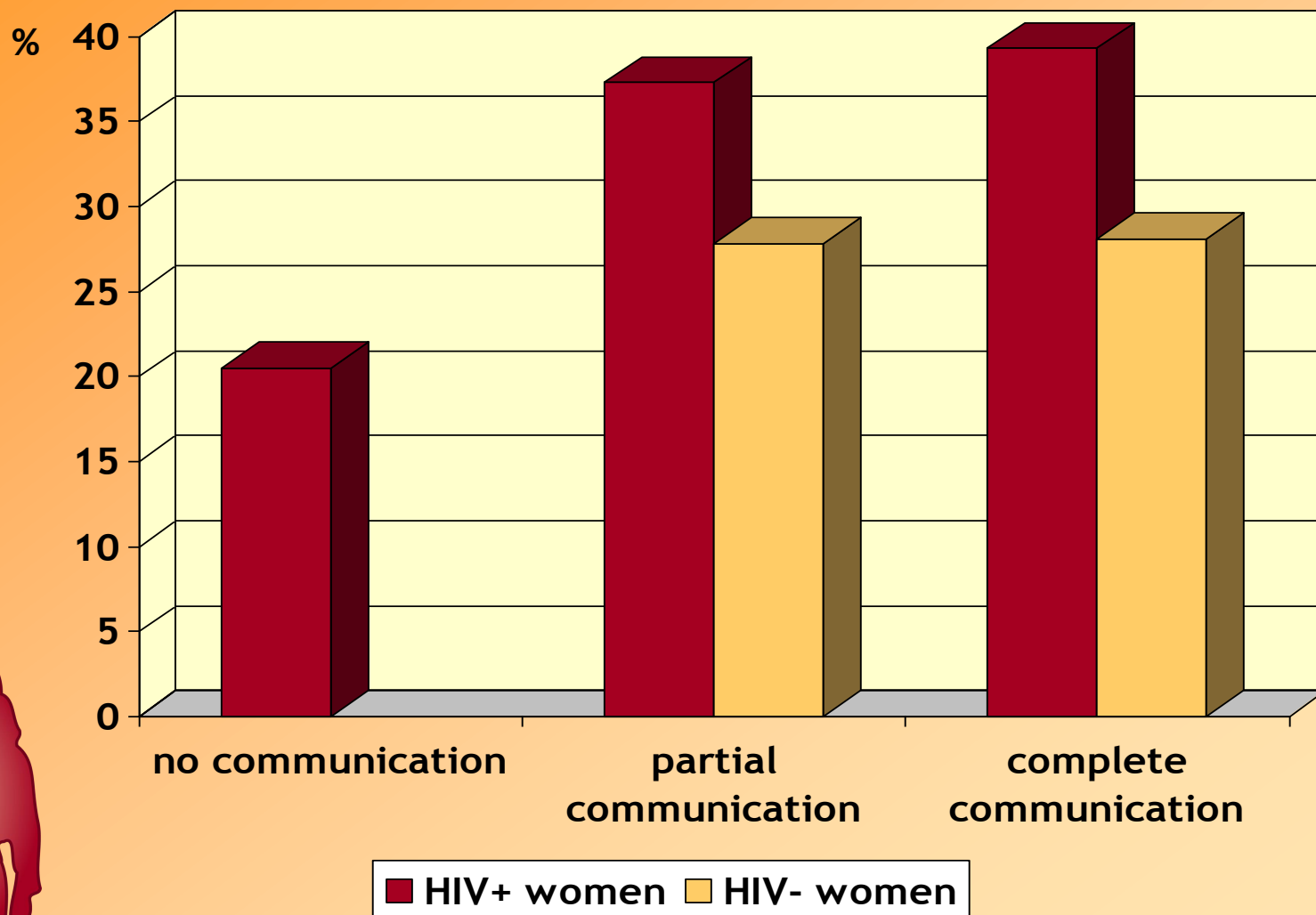


Conclusions on couple communication on STD/HIV

- ✘ After HIV test, nearly all **HIV-** women communicate on HIV and/or STD with their partner
- ✘ After HIV test, 2/3 of **HIV+** women communicate on HIV/STD with their partner
 - ✘ Sometimes without disclosure of their serostatus : strategy of educated women
 - ✘ Co-residency and monogamy are the sociodemographic characteristics strongest related to a complete communication with the partner about HIV



% of systematic condom use at sexual resumption after delivery according to the level of communication on STD/HIV within the couple



Multivariate analysis of the probability of condom use at sexual resumption after delivery

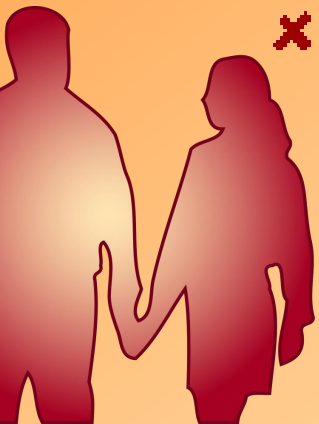
Significant variables after adjustment :

HIV+ women	HIV- women
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✘ Communication within the couple on STD/ HIV✘ level of education of the partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✘ Level of education of the woman



Conclusions (1)

- ✘ Polygamy and non co-residency related to less communication on STD/HIV within the couple
- ✘ Use of HIV preventive practices depends on
 - ✘ Partner notification of the wife's HIV test
 - ✘ Communication on STD/HIV within the couple
 - ✘ Instruction level of the partner on the risk of HIV infection
- ✘ But no direct link between polygamy and co-residency on HIV preventive practices.



Conclusions (2)

- ✘ It is necessary to take into account **the specificity of the conjugal bond** in order to improve HIV prevention within the couple
- ➔ consider which indicators are to be collected so to catch this specificity, in addition to classical union indicators :
 - ✘ Existence of a co-wife or an «official mistress »
 - ✘ Partners co-residency
 - ✘ Duration of the union
 - ✘ Expectations of each partners regarding this union
 - ✘ Etc.

