

A brief case study of the controversy around the PreP trial in Nigeria

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Outline

- Brief overview of 'controversial' PreP trials
- Brief on the Nigerian PreP controversy
- Peculiarities of the Nigerian PreP controversy
- Lessons learnt from the Nigerian PreP controversy

Overview of 'controversial' PreP trials

- Cambodia trial discontinued due to community protest and government concern
- Cameroon trial discontinued due to community protest and poor media reporting
- Malawi trial discontinued due to Government concerns
- Ongoing CDC PreP trial in Thailand but with expressed community concerns

Brief about the Nigerian PreP controversy

- Controversy initiated by the coalition of sex workers in Nigeria
- Good media rapport established with the media facilitated prompt engagement of NHVMAG and the PI of trial on the listserv posting (*discuss*)
- Delayed response by the trial PI allowed for degeneration of the debate and trial focusing on damage mending

Peculiarities about the PreP trial in Nigeria

- Debate went on extensively on the JAAIDS and NHVMAG listservs. None of the controversies was reported on the pages of the newspaper nor on any media forum
- Focus of the controversy was on the standard of care and a few concerns about the design of the trial and community engagement. The demand was for change in trial design NOT closure of the trial

Lessons learnt from the Nigerian PreP trial issues

- The world is a global village and information travels extremely fast
- Engagement with the media should be focused on bringing them on board as partners not just as crisis managers
- Media training for journalists should also focus on non sensational reporting of HIV/AIDS report