

**CONSISTENT CONDOM UTILIZATION AND ITS
ASSOCIATED FACTORS AMONG PEOPLE
LIVING WITH HIV AT PYINMANAR STD TEAM,
NAYPYITAW REGION**

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2019

ABSTRACT

The consistent use of condoms among PLHIVs is a complex decision. It however plays a role in prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). This is a cross-sectional study using sequential explanatory mixed methods conducted among 216 PLHIVs at Pyinmanar STD Team from September to December 2019. This study aimed at identifying the proportion of consistent condom utilization and the determinants of consistent condom utilization among PLHIVs cohabiting with their partners and exploring the barriers of consistent condom utilization in PLHIVs. Face to face interview was done using pretested semi structured questionnaires. In depth interview among six PLHIVs with inconsistent condom utilization were done to explore their barrier and challenges in maintaining the condom utilization consistently. Of 216 PLHIV, 120(55.6%) of the respondents used condom consistently. Age, education, taking ART currently and HIV status of the partner influenced consistent condom use. The older the respondents were, the more likely they used condom consistently (OR = 2.43, 95% CI; 1.21, 4.86, $P = 0.01$). The more educated the respondents were, the more likely they used condom consistently (OR = 2.03, 95% CI; 1.07, 3.87, $P = 0.03$). Respondents who were taking ART currently, used condom more consistently than those who were not taking ART currently (OR = 3.51, 95% CI; 1.02, 12.06, $P = 0.04$). Respondents with HIV negative partner and partner of HIV unknown status were more likely to use condom consistently (OR = 1.13, 95% CI; 0.47, 2.65, $P = 0.001$). In qualitative findings, although most respondents had positive perceptions on condom utilization and they did not use condom consistently because of afraid on reducing their sexual pleasure and decision on consistent condom utilization was mainly depend on the male PLHIVs. Some respondents said that it was uncomfortable for us when they had encountered condom rupture during sexual act. Some male respondents also mentioned that they usually removed condom during sexual intercourse because of feeling of squeezing to us. To increase the proportion of consistent condom utilization among PLHIV, good quality and multiple sizes of condoms must be available among PLHIV, skill trainings including condom-use and behavior change activities should be given more to all PLHIVs.