

CONception to Child-Rearing in Early Treatment Era (CONCRETE):



P173

A qualitative study of women living with HIV during pregnancy and motherhood

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Background and aim

- Childbirth is considered a major life event and a fundamental right. However, very little is known on how women with HIV (WWH) lived that milestone through the early ART era
- In the early ART era, pregnant WWH not already on ART were offered treatment after the first trimester. Delivery by Caesarean section was recommended under continuous ART perfusion. Infants were bottle-fed and neonatal PEP was carried during the first weeks of life. At this time, there was no parameter assuring zero perinatal transmission and no data regarding the long-term effects of *in utero* ART exposure¹.
- The aim of the current study was to hear the perspective of WWH who gave birth in the early ART era, determine what could have improved the experience of pregnancy and motherhood, and how these improvements might be implemented for today's generation of WWH.

Methods

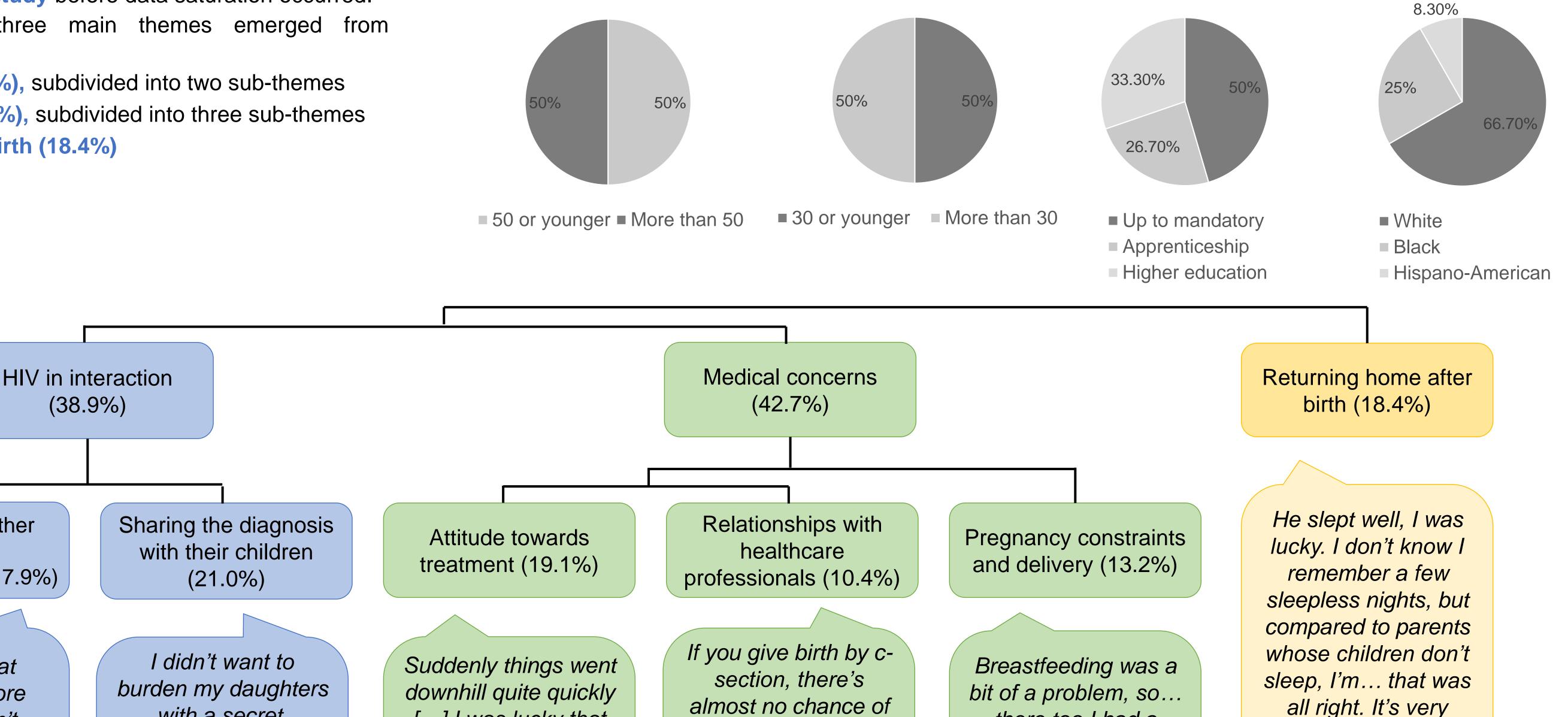
- Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) was an integral part of this study, a collaboration between qualitative researchers, clinicians, and a patient expert.
- Between November 2023 and April 2024, consenting WWH attended confidential one-to-one semi-structured interviews of up to 60 minutes with a trained researcher. French-speaking WWH who had experienced ART during pregnancy and who gave birth between 2000 and 2008 to an HIV-negative child were eligible to participate.
- Themes covered included: birth and pregnancy plans, mother and child health, relationships with health professionals, social support, stigma, and representations of motherhood.
- Interviews were recorded and then transcribed. Analyses were conducted using IRaMuTeQ. This software performs various text analyses, including discourse classification based on word frequency and co-occurrence. The classification generated by the software was then interpreted by members of the research team trained in qualitative methods.

	Results			
12 M/M/H took part in the study before data esturation accurred	Age at the interview	Age at delivery	Education	Ethnicity

- IZ WWH LOOK part in the study before data saturation occurred.
- Analyses showed that three main themes emerged from participants' transcripts:
 - HIV in interaction (38.9%), subdivided into two sub-themes
 - Medical concerns (42.7%), subdivided into three sub-themes

(38.9%)

• Returning home after birth (18.4%)



tolerant, I don't know... Maybe young people are, but some others aren't. I think people my age still haven't got it [...] People are afraid, sexuality, blood, they're afraid.

Perception of other

people's

representations (17.9%)

Some say that

people are more

with a secret, perhaps heavy when you hear it depending on their age [...] On the other hand, I always thought that if I got sick, if I had AIDS, if I had to be hospitalised because I had an illness related to that, of course I would tell.

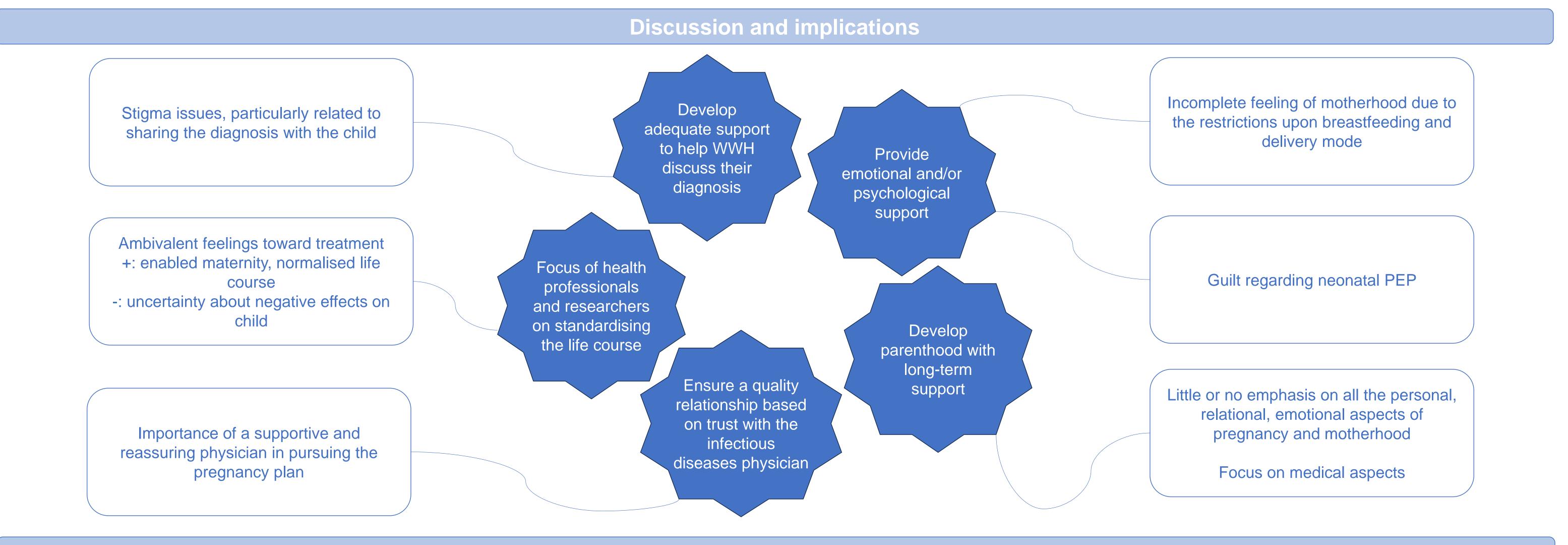
[...] I was lucky that new drugs were arriving [...] very quickly my CD4 count went back up until I was told that... I was undetectable and everything was fine.

child being affected, so I was reassured, and I believe in science, I trust physicians because they're the professionals, and I'm just an education worker, so they know what's going on, and I was... so I said OK, we'll ignore it and I was very confident.

there too I had a good experience, I met people who explained to me how to make milk and all that. But then there's a kind of intuition in the baby, she was crawling on top of me to get to the breast. I had to stop her and that was hard.

hard, well it's true not to sleep one or two nights is already terrible [...] but it could have been much harder.





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References

1. MMWR 51(RR18);1-38. November 2002

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