

1  Palliative Care / Care & Support  
for  
HIV/AIDS

Carla S Alexander, MD, FAAHPM  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Director Palliative Care and Support

2  Objectives

- Importance of *continuum of care and support* in management of HIV/AIDS
- Identify challenges in caring for persons with HIV/AIDS

3  Image of market

4  What is the point?

- Are we measuring outcomes that actually mean something in the life of a PLWHA?
- Can care manipulated by competitive agencies be offered in a manner that provides a lifetime of quality time with family and friends?
- Who is to say what quality is from one day to the next for you? For me? For someone living with HIV?

5  Estimated Incidence of AIDS and Deaths among Adults and Adolescents with AIDS, 1985-2002, United States

6  POP Quiz:

- Of 10 people living with HIV disease:
  - 2 have progressive hepatitis C
  - 1 has substance-associated renal failure
  - 1 is on Maraviroc and a failing backbone
  - 1 has decompensated cardiac failure after years on HAART
  - 1 has miliary TB and not yet started on ART
  - 1 has disseminated Kaposi's sarcoma
  - 1 has Cryptococcal meningitis with a headache 7/10
  - 1 has recurrent panic attacks
  - 1 has lost 30# and his ability to talk

7  Of those 10 people -  
How many are going to die?

8  Image of beach

9  Focus shift

- From life of the virus to life of the host
- Goal = viral suppression + HRQoL

- Impact on family / community / self

10  **Shift in Focus**

- Understand care of patient within the context of life (trajectory of illness)
  - Care targeted to stage of illness
  - Role of family and community

11  **Three intersecting circle: Community, Clinic, Patient; Staff appears at the intersection**

12  **Continuity of Care: Stages of Care and Support**

13  **Context of Care**

- Care of the individual
  - Goals of Care and Health-Related Quality of Life
    - Clinical - impeccable attention to detail
- Continuity model of care over time
  - Importance of interdisciplinary team
  - Hospital / Clinic / Home
- Impact of care
  - On patients and families
  - On the bereaved and community
  - On ourselves

14  **Meaning for patient with HIV/AIDS**

15  **Care Skill Set**

- Communication skills
- Management of total pain & other symptoms including mental health issues
- End-of-Life issues - dying, grief & bereavement
- Care of care providers - ?Task-shifting
- Measuring & improving impact of care and support on patient, family and community

16  **Under-lying motivation for use of palliative approach**

- Attention to physical concerns often displaces time needed for essential elements that are then neglected
  - Physical pain vs psycho-spiritual issues
  - Concrete, daily needs vs end-of-life closure and effective grieving

17  **Continuum of Care**

18  **Goals of PC**

- Modify management based on prognosis

- Patient and 'family' as unit of care
- Provision of comfort measures
- End-of-Life closure
- Ethical / cultural / spiritual issues
- Grief and bereavement

19  Image of women carrying babies on their backs

20  Image of members of interdisciplinary Team: Doctor, Assistant, Pharmacist, Adherence Officer/CO, Volunteer

21  Symptoms experienced at all stages

22  Pain

- Importance as a representative symptom
- Prevalence and impact
- Approach to assessment and treatment
- Need for advocacy for opioids
- May not be a relevant topic in resource-constrained settings

23  **TOTAL PAIN**

24  Palliative Care for

HIV/AIDS and/or Cancer (2001-2003)

- Less than 1% can access ARV's
- Less than 5% of cancers reach chemotherapy or radiotherapy
- 40% of Africans never see a health worker
- Research in Sub-Saharan Africa by WHO in these countries shows preference for dying in own homes

Influenced by effects of Government regulations on finances.

25  Relative Barriers to Discussing and Improving End-of-Life Care

- Individual discomfort in dealing with issues related to end-of-life – *all countries / cultures*
- Lack of acknowledgment of importance results in not knowing what to do / *withdrawing*
- Resulting in
  - Critical conversations are introduced too late
  - Families are left alone to cope with dying
  - Exaggerated risk of over-medicalization and unrealistic attempts to prolong life

26  Image of list of names; Multiple Loss in Families

27  Specific problems in HIV/AIDS that interfere with effective support

- Stigma

- Cultural issues
- Young people dying
- Displaced populations
- Others?

28  Causes of death

in inner city population [63/132 (48%)]

- AIDS (38%)
- Sepsis (19%)
- Cancer (19%)
- Liver failure/cirrhosis (17%)
- Other (7%)

- Death predictable by functional status alone not usual disease markers: e.g. CD4 or VL

29  Image of gravesite; Impact of Multiple Losses can not be underestimated

30  Image of children in Africa; Orphans are the Bereaved in Many African Countries

31  Methods for Supporting Staff

- Basic team building exercises –
  - Fun and foster unity
  - Build on competitive spirit
  - Highlight creativity
- Use of humor
- Recognition and rewards
- Beautification of space – keep it simple!

32  Image of eagle sitting in treetop

33  We each need a source of inspiration. .

- A child / children
- Pets
- Community work
- Spiritual beliefs
- Beauty of nature
- Time alone
- Singing / reading / watching a movie

34  What gives you strength?

How often in a week do you go to this source?

35  Image of tree

36  **Maker of Dreams Reflection**

As we bring healing . . .  
Not to forget  
To remind us that the answers to life are within each of us  
Our role is to accompany on the journey

37  **Life is a journey**

- We are the accompagnateurs
  - For patients and their families
  - For our own families
  - For other staff members
  - For friends in our community

38  **Intention, Love, Belief, Compassion, Faith, Charity, Imagination, Strength, Presence, Hope, Creativity**

39  **Faith**

Is knowing that when you step into darkness of the unknown. . .

You will land on something solid. . .

or you will be taught to fly

40  **Asante Sana, Zikomo, Merci Bien, Thanks**

41  **Image of sunset**

42  **Reading**

- Sepulveda C, et al *Brit Med J* 2003  
327:209-213 (Quality Care @ EOL in Africa)
- Harding R and Higginson I *Lancet* 2005  
365(9475):1971-1977 (PC in SS Africa)
- Makoae LN et al (Holzemer) *JANAC* 2005  
16(3):22-32 (Sx experience PLWH/A Southern Africa)
- Alexander, C in Anderson, J ed *A Guide to the Clinical Care of Women with HIV Disease*, HRSA 2000
- Bond, Lavy and Wooldridge *Palliative Care Toolkit*, Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance, 2008

43  **Palliative Care on the Internet**

- <http://www.growthhouse.org> collection of resources on palliative care
- <http://www.symptomcontrol.com> addresses individual symptoms
- <http://www.chcr.brown.edu/pcoc/Toolkit.htm> a collection of tested instruments for measuring end-of-life care concepts
- <http://www.eperc.mcw.edu> *Fast Facts* (Project of Palliative Care Center, Medical College of Wisconsin) 1-2 page summaries addressing all topics
- <http://www.epec.net> Educating Physicians about End-of-life Care developed by American Medical Association (provides bulk of under-lying information used in the African Palliative Care Association curriculum) [www.apca.org](http://www.apca.org)
- King's College London – Post-doctoral degree in Palliative Medicine <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/> Other programs now exist at University of Cape Town

and Nairobi Hospice. All are distance-based requiring only short time periods in the respective countries; King's College is more advanced in terms of developing and pursuing research.