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**REPRODUCTIVE INTENTIONS AND OUTCOMES AMONG WOMEN ON  
ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY IN RURAL UGANDA:  
A PROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY**

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BACKGROUND

Antiretroviral therapy (ART) may influence the biological and behavioral determinants of pregnancy in HIV-infected women, however there are limited data on the reproductive intentions and outcomes among women on ART in Africa.

METHODOLOGY

Women answered in-depth social and behavioral questionnaires administered every quarter in year 1 after ART, and every 6-12 months thereafter. Using a prospective design, we analyzed desire for children (generalized estimating equation), pregnancy incidence (Weibull parameter test), and predictors of pregnancy (Cox proportional hazards) among 733 HIV-infected women who initiated ART in rural Uganda and were followed-up in their homes for 24 months. Use of family planning (FP) methods was assessed at 18 and 24 months after starting ART.

FINDINGS

Among 711 women followed-up for a median 2.4 years after starting ART, <7% reported wanting more children at any time yet pregnancy incidence increased three-fold and the proportion of women reporting sexual activity in the past 3 months rose from 24.4% to 32.5% over 24 months ( $p= 0.001$ ). Only 14% of women used permanent or semi-permanent FP methods by 24 months. In multivariate analysis, younger age (HR=2.71 per 10-year decrease, 95% CI: 2.95-3.78), having a BMI > 18.5 (HR=1.09, CI: 1.01-1.18) and not having used condoms consistently in the last 3 months (HR=1.79, CI: 1.02-3.13) were independently associated with pregnancy.

CONCLUSION

Women on ART and their partners should be consistently counseled on the effects of ART in restoring fertility, and offered regularly free and comprehensive family planning services as part of their standard package of care.