

# Sero Status Disclosure and Condom use among Plwhas on Art in Assela Town Health Facilities, Oromiya Region

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## Abstract

**Background:** HIV Status disclosure and sexual behavior of PLWHAS is vital for HIV prevention efforts and the couple's health in the context of accelerated highly active antiretroviral therapy. Therefore it is essential to see sero-status disclosure and sexual behavior of PLWHAs who are taking ART as this has implication for prevention of HIV epidemic.

**Objective:** To assess sero status disclosure and condom use among PLWHAs who are on ART in Assela town health facilities, Arsi Zone, Oromiya Region.

**Methodology:** institution based cross sectional study was conducted using both quantitative and qualitative methods from February to April 2013 among 324 PLWHAs who are taking ART from Assela town health institutions. Structured and pretested questionnaire was used for data collection of qualitative part and semi-structured questionnaire was used for qualitative part.

**Result:** More than half of the participants 167 (51.5%) were females. The majority 264 (81.5%) were married. Over all 94.1% of the respondents had disclosed their HIV positive result to their regular partner. Knowledge of partners' sero status, prior discussion about HIV, type of relationship with partner, living in the same home and duration of HIV test were determinants of sero status disclosure. The proportion of consistent condom use in this study was (60.8%) and the main reason reported for not using condom were partner's refusal (37.4%). Prior discussion about HIV test, duration since ART started, history of condom use and sex of respondent were found to be determinants of consistent condom use.

**Conclusion:** Although the magnitude of HIV positive status disclosure to regular partner found in this study was encouraging, lack of disclosure by a minority resulted in a limited ability to engage in preventive behaviors. Therefore HIV prevention programs and organizations working on HIV should further enhance disclosure and condom use using different mechanisms like mass health education and face to face counseling.

**Keywords:** Sero status disclosure; Sexual behavior; Condom use; PLWHA on ART

## Background

It has been three decades since HIV started its spread across the globe with a devastating impact on populations and economies of countries and regions, some more than others. UNAIDS estimates that there were 34 million people living with HIV at the end of 2011 [1]. Sub-Saharan Africa continues to bear an inordinate share of the global HIV burden [2]. Ethiopia is one of the sub-Saharan countries worst affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. According to the Ministry of Health of Ethiopia report published in 2011, approximately 1.1 million people were living with HIV, In the same year, the national adult HIV prevalence was estimated to be 1.5% and a total of 34,936 people were newly infected with HIV, of whom 24,967 (71%) were adults [3,4]. In the study area the number of PLWHAs on follow up during the study period were 8,376 among these 2,767 of them were taking ART from Assela town health facilities.

Disclosing HIV sero-status has paramount significances like to have safe sexual intercourse using condom, for caring/supporting of PLWHA in taking medication or nutritional modifications as needed. Despite its importance, only (58.2% and 97%) PLWHA in Barbados and Nigeria were disclosing their results [5,6]. In different parts of Ethiopia like kemisie, Jimma university hospital and Hawasa University referral Hospital, the respective disclosure status were 94.5%, 90.8% and 85.7% respectively [7-9] With regarding condom use, about little over half of,

North Shewa Zone (62%) and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (63.1%) PLWHA were reporting as using condom consistently [10,11].

Even though PLWHAs are given knowledge about safer sexual behavior during the ART (Anti-Retroviral Therapy) clinic sessions, there is growing evidence suggests that people on ART are increasingly becoming sexually active and many of them are involved in sexual activity with partners who are HIV negative. Moreover failure to disclose HIV positive status could lead to unsafe sexual practice, which in-turn increases risk of infecting sexual partner, couples re-infection with new strains and HIV transmission to the child. Thus, the aim of this study was to assess the magnitude of HIV status disclosure and condom use, and its associated factors among HIV positive ART attendants in Assela town health institution, Oromiya region. The result of the study would use for policy makers and other organizations working on HIV/

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AIDS to plan ways for further sero status disclosure and for further promoting use of condom among PLWHAs.

The objective of this study was to assess the degree of HIV status disclosure and condom use and to identify associated factors among PLWHA who are taking ART in Assela town health facilities, Arsi Zone, Oromiya Region.

## Methodology

### Study area and period

The study was conducted from February to April, 2013 in Assela town health facilities, which is found in Arsi Zone, Oromiya Region located 175 kilometers east of Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. Assela is the capital town of Arsi zone with a total population of 74,268 with sex distribution of 49.73% males and 50.27% females. The town has one zonal hospital and two health center. One of the health centers and the hospital provides currently Anti-Retroviral Therapy service. Like other part of the Oromiya HIV/AIDS is the major health problem in Assela town with huge social and economic consequences which has followed the epidemic.

### Study design and population

Facility based cross-sectional study was conducted using quantitative research approach supplemented by qualitative methods.

The study population was PLWHA attending Anti-Retroviral Therapy clinic and had tested positive at least six months prior to the study and started ART, had been sexually active in the past three months and were 18 years of age or above

**Inclusion criteria:** ALL PLWHAs who were registered in Anti-Retroviral Therapy clinic, took ART for more than six months, sexually active and his/her age is above or equal to 18 years

### Exclusion criteria

PLWHAs who were mentally or critically ill, sexually inactive during data collection time and not willing to participate in the study were excluded from study.

Sample size (n) required for this study was calculated by using single population proportion (p); by taking the proportion of sero status disclosure from metu town which was 69% , 5% level of significance and 5% margin of error (precision) the calculated sample size was 294, and after adding 10% non-response rate the final sample size was 324 PLWHAs on ART. For qualitative study a total of 14 (10 PLWHAs and 4 key informants for the in-depth interview) were selected using purposive sampling technique.

### Measurements

The dependent variable for this study were HIV positive status disclosure to a partner and consistent condom use

The independent variables includes socio-demographic characteristics (age, sex, income, education, religion, marital status, occupation, place of residence), relationship factors (having single or multiple partners, duration of relationship, regular or casual partner, quality of relationship, discussion about HIV with partner, fear of partner's reaction, HIV status of partner), illness related factors (duration of test result and duration of ART start), active substance and alcohol use. Quantitative data were collected by pre-tasted questionnaire, which was adapted, from different studies [7,12]. Semi structured questioner for In-depth interview were used in qualitative study.

The quality of data was controlled starting from the time of questionnaires preparations. First the questionnaire which was prepared by English was translated into Afaan Oromo. To insure the consistency of the tool it was translated back to English. Training was given for supervisors and data collectors on the purpose of study and procedures of data collection for 2 days prior to study. After completing the training, trainees were conducted a pre-test at non study health facility.

The collected data were entered into computer for analysis by using Statistical packages: Epi-info version 3.5.1. After the entrance and completeness of all data, cleaning was done. Finally, the data were exported to SPSS version 17 for further analysis. Both the descriptive and Bivariate /multivariate logistic regression analysis were performed. Crude logistic regression were used to see relationship between one independent variable with outcome at time and adjust logistic regression were used to see relationship between many independent variables with outcome variable after controlling confounding factors. The result was presented using appropriate frequencies, proportions, odds ratio and 95% confidence interval. A P-value<0.05 was considered statistically significant. Correlation between the independent variable was run to see their correlation coefficient (r) and not include two variables having correlation coefficient greater than 0.6 ( $r > 0.6$ ) to avoid multicollinearity problem.

### Qualitative study

To enrich the information obtained by quantitative study, in-depth interview of one to one discussion was held for the qualitative part. The in-depth interviews were conducted by the principal investigator in a private room and each interview lasted for 30-40 minutes. Each interview was tape recorded and notes were taken during each in-depth and key informant interview after that content analysis was used. Then the qualitative finding was triangulated with the quantitative part.

Ethical clearance letter was obtained from Research and ethics Committee (REC) of school of public health, Addis Ababa University. A written consent was obtained from Assela Hospital and Health center. Additionally an informed written consent was obtained from each respondent after providing sufficient information on the purpose of study.

## Results

### Socio-demographic characteristic of study participants

A total of 324 HIV positive individuals who were taking ART were interviewed, yielding a response rate of 100%. More than half 167 (51.5%) were females. The mean age of the respondent was 36.33 years ( $\pm 7.79$ ) and the majority of them 264 (81.5%) were married. More than two third 233 (71.9%) of them were followers of Orthodox Christianity. About 207 (63.9%) of the study participants were Oromo ethnic group. Two hundred fifty two (77.8%) lived in urban area. Regarding to educational status, 119 (36.7%) were between grade 5 to 8. The median monthly income of study subjects were 500 Ethiopian birr (shown in Table 1). At the time of study, the mean duration of receiving ART was  $39.8 \pm 23.8$  months.

### Sexual behavior of respondents before tested positive

For one hundred fifty six (48.1%) of the respondents, the test was done more than 49 months ago for 101 (31.2%), the test was done 25-48 months ago, and for the rest, the test was done within 24 months before this survey. The majority 288 (88.9%) of them were never use condom before tested HIV. One hundred fifty seven (48.5%) of them had history of multiple sexual partner before tested positive (shown in Table 2).

Variable	Male freq(%)	Female freq(%)	Total freq (%)
<b>Age category</b>			
18-24	1 (0.6%)	14(8.4%)	15(4.6%)
25-34	25(15.8%)	90(54.2%)	115(35.5%)
35-44	96(60.8%)	55(33.1%)	151(46.6%)
≥45	36(22.8%)	7(4.2%)	43(13.3%)
<b>Current marital status</b>			
Single	14(8.9%)	22(13.3%)	36(11.1%)
Married	134(84.8%)	130(78.3%)	264(81.5%)
Divorced	6(3.8%)	7(4.2%)	13(4.0%)
Widowed	4(2.5%)	7(4.2%)	11(3.4%)
<b>Religion</b>			
Orthodox	103(65.2%)	130(78.3%)	233(71.9%)
Muslim	40(25.3%)	20(12%)	60(18.5%)
Protestant	15(9.5%)	16(9.6%)	31(9.6%)
<b>Ethnic group</b>			
Oromo	113(71.5%)	94(56.6%)	207(63.9%)
Amhara	39(24.7%)	62(37.3%)	101(31.2%)
Others*	6(3.7%)	10(6%)	16(4.9%)
<b>Place of residence</b>			
Urban	115(72.8%)	137(82.5%)	252(77.8%)
Rural	43(27.2%)	29(17.5%)	72(22.2%)
<b>Education</b>			
Unable to write & read	7(4.4%)	28(16.9%)	35(10.8%)
Grade 1-4	27(17.1%)	20(12%)	47(14.5%)
Grade 5-8	51(32.3%)	68(41%)	119(36.7%)
Grade 9-12	45(28.5%)	43(25.9%)	88(27.2%)
College& above	28(17.7%)	7(4.2%)	35(10.2%)
<b>Occupation</b>			
Government employee	41(26.1%)	12(7.2%)	53(16.4%)
private employee	33(21%)	20(12%)	53(16.4%)
House wife	(0%)	50(30.1%)	50(15.4%)
Daily laborer	26(16.6%)	48(28.9%)	74(22.8%)
Merchant	19(12.1%)	31(18.1%)	50(15.4%)
Farmer	33(21%)	4(2.4%)	37(11.4%)
Others	5(3.2%)	2(1.2%)	7(2.2%)
<b>Average monthly income</b>			
No income/I don't know	1(0.6%)	36(21.7%)	37(11.4%)
≤500	59(37.3%)	79(47.6%)	138(42.6%)
501-1000	50(31.6%)	29(17.5%)	79(24.4%)
1001-1500	16(10.1%)	2(7.2%)	28(8.6%)
>1500	32(20.3%)	10(6%)	42(13%)

Table 1:

In the in-depth interview most respondents had reported history of sexual intercourse with multiple sexual partners with inconsistent condom use. One of HIV positive man who is on ART from Assela town explains his past sexual behavior as:

*“Before I became ill, I had been a member of Ethiopian military and I had a bad behavior, I engaged in sexual intercourse with multiple sexual Partners like bar ladies. I used condom sometimes with those ladies but not at all time.”*

### HIV status disclosure

Among the 324 participants 311 (96.0%) of the respondents disclosed their HIV positive status at least to one person (96.2% men Vs 95.8% women); while 305 (94.1%) of respondents disclosed their

result to their current regular partner. Among respondents who had casual sexual partner only 13 (34.2%) were disclosed their result to any of these partners.

Among respondents who were disclosed their sero-status to their regular partner 30 (19.1%) of women and 14 (9.5%) of men had unprotected sex with their partner before telling their result to their partner. Concerning sero status disclosure time 212 (69.5%) were told their result immediately and the rest 93 (30.6%) were delayed. (As showed in Table 3).

Among respondents who participate in the in-depth interview the majority of them were reported that they were disclosed their result to their partner. A 40 years female respondent explains her experience of disclosure as follows:

*“I disclosed my result to my husband and to my children because my husband and I were tested at the same time in the same health facility. Now, we are taking ART drug together from the same health institution”*

### 3.4 Barriers of participants for sero - status disclosure

Among participants who did not disclose their test results to their partner the commonest reasons mentioned were, fear of separation / divorce (26.3%), fear of labeling as bad person (26.3%), and the other reasons were depicted in Table 4.

Qualitative informants raised many reasons for hiding their sero status from their partners, of these fear of separation or divorce is prominent one. A 24 years male respondent stated that:

*“I did not tell her my HIV-positive results because she was tested before me and she knew that her result is negative. Beside this we quarrel*

Characteristic	Frequency	Percentage(%)
<b>The types of HIV counseling they used to be tested</b>		
VCT	153	47.2
PIHCT	171	52.8
<b>The duration since tested positive (months)</b>		
≤24	67	20.7
25-48	101	31.2
≥49	156	48.1
<b>Marital status by the time they know their HIV status</b>		
Married	257	79.3
Single	38	11.7
Divorced	12	3.7
Widowed	17	5.2
<b>Number of sexual partners before tested HIV</b>		
Single	167	51.5
Multiple	157	48.5
<b>Knowledge of partners sero status before test</b>		
Yes	44	13.6
No	280	86.4
<b>History of condom use before testing HIV</b>		
Yes	36	11.1
No	288	88.9
<b>Condom use pattern before testing HIV</b>		
Consistently used	14	4.3
Inconsistently used	22	6.8
Not used at all	288	88.9

Table 2: sexual behavior of study participants before tested positive, Assela, Arsi zone 2013.

Variables	Male Freq(%)	Female Freq(%)	Total Freq(%)
<b>Disclosed to any one (N=324)</b>			
Yes	152(96.2%)	159(95.8%)	311(96.0%)
No	6(3.8%)	7(4.2%)	13(4.0%)
<b>Disclosed to main sexual partner(N=324)</b>			
Yes	148(93.7%)	157(94.6%)	305(94.1%)
No	10(6.3%)	9(5.4%)	19(5.9%)
<b>Disclosed to casual sexual partner(n=38)</b>			
Yes	9(37.5%)	4(28.6%)	13(34.2%)
No	15(62.5%)	10(71.4%)	25(65.5%)
<b>Delayed disclosure to main partner(n=305)</b>			
Yes	44(29.7%)	49(31.2%)	93(30.6%)
No	104(70.3%)	108(68.8%)	212(69.5%)
<b>Sex before disclosure(n=305)</b>			
Yes	14(9.5%)	30(19.1%)	44(14.4%)
No	134(90.5%)	127(80.9%)	261(85.6%)

**Table 3:** Magnitude of Sero status disclosure among PLWHAs who are taking ART, Assela, Arsi zone, 2012/13.

Reason for non disclosure	Male Freq(%)	Female Freq(%)	Total Freq(%)
He/She might leave me	2 (20%)	3(33.3%)	5(26.3%)
He/She might be afraid of catching HIV from me	1(10.0%)	0(0%)	1(5.3%)
He/She might think I am a bad person	2 (20%)	3(33.3%)	5(26.3%)
He/She is too young to handle it	1(10.0%)	0(0%)	1(5.3%)
The person may tell others	3(30.0%)	2(22.2%)	5(26.3)
He/ She might think I am unfaithful	1(10.0%)	1(11.1%)	2(10.5%)

**Table 4:** Barriers of respondents for HIV status disclosing among PLWHAs, Assela, Arsi zone 2012/13.

so many times therefore if I tell my result to her now, she will leave me and will marry to another person”

### Sexual behavior and condom use among PLWHAs

Among sexually active respondents 305 (94.1%) had single partner and 19 (5.9%) had multiple partners since started ART. In the occasion of their last sex, 233 (71.9%) of the respondents used condom and the rest did not used. Concerning condom use since HIV diagnosed 197 (60.8%) of the respondents were using condom consistently whereas the remaining 127 (39.2%) were either using condom inconsistently or did not use it at all. Two Hundred eighty six (88.3%) of those individuals had sexual practice with regular partner and 38 (11.7%) of them with none regular partner. Among those who had sex with non-regular partner, the majority 25 (65.8%) of them were without disclosure of their sero status. (Table 5)

From the in-depth interview one female respondent who was in sero discordant relation explains her sexual behavior as;

“My husband is HIV negative we were tested before marriage and at that time, I want to separate from him, but he didn't do so, why because he loves me. We were counseled about condom use but we did not use condom always as a result we have two children now. Fortunately, both my children and my husband is HIV negative”.

### Factors associated with disclosure

As sown in table 6. From all the variables, living with partner in

the same home, relationship with partner, Knowledge of partner's HIV status and prior discussion were determinants of sero status disclosure.

Respondents those who had duration of test greater than two years were found to have eight fold increased odds of disclosure compared to those who had less than two year (AOR:8.4; 95% CI: 1.21,57.7). Whereas, respondents those were not living in the same home with their partner were 99% less likely to disclose their HIV status to a partner in comparison with those living together (AOR, 0.01; 95% CI: 0.001,0.27). The other predictor of HIV status disclosure was partner's relationship. Participants those were lived in disagreement relation with their partners were (99%) less likely to disclose their HIV status than their counterparts (AOR= 0.01; 95% CI: 0.001,0.2). In addition participants who did not discuss about HIV and testing with their partners were 93% less likely to disclose their HIV status than their counterparts (AOR= 0.07; 95% CI: 0.01, 0.98) (Table 6).

### Factors associated with condom use

As depicted in Table 7, factors that are independently associated with consistent condom use were explored using multivariate analysis. In the multiple logistic regression model, Sex of respondent, prior discussion about HIV testing and duration since ART start were

Characteristic	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Duration since ART start in month</b>		
≤24	109	33.6
25-48	109	33.6
≥49	106	32.7
<b>Health condition since started ART</b>		
Improved	341	96.6
No change	9	2.8
Deteriorated	1	.3
<b>Sexual desire since ART</b>		
Improved	41	12.7
Normal	186	57.4
Decreased	97	29.9
<b>Sexual intercourse in the last 3 month</b>		
Yes	311	96
No	13	4
<b>No of partners since ART</b>		
Single	305	94.1
Multiple	19	5.9
<b>Condom use in the last sexual intercourse</b>		
Yes	233	71.9
No	91	28.1
<b>Condom use since HIV positive diagnosis</b>		
Consistently used	197	60.8
In consistently used	96	29.6
Not used at all	31	9.6
<b>Sexual intercourse with non regular partner</b>		
Yes	38	11.7
No	286	88.3
<b>Sero status disclosure to non regular partner</b>		
Yes	13	34.2
No	25	65.8
<b>Condom use with non regular partner</b>		
Yes	16	42.1
No	22	57.9

**Table 5:** Sexual behavior and condom use among PLWHAs on ART, Assela Arsi zone 2012/13.

Variables	Disclosed N(%)	Not disclosed N(%)	Crude OR(95% CI)	Adjusted OR(95% CI)
<b>Marital status</b>				
Married	260(85.2%)	4(21.1%)	<b>21.7 (6.9, 68.3) *</b>	0.7(0.03, 16.9)
Unmarried	45(14.5%)	15(78.9%)	1.0	1.0
<b>Live in the same home</b>				
Yes	284 (99%)	3(1%)	1.0	1.0
No	21(56.8%)	16(43.2%)	<b>0.02(.004, .05)*</b>	<b>0.01(0.001, 0.27)**</b>
<b>Duration of test in year</b>				
= <2	57(85% )	10(14.9% )	1.0	1.0
>2	248(96.49%)	9(3.5%)	<b>4.8 (1.9, 12.4) *</b>	<b>8.4(1.2, 57.7) **</b>
<b>Relation with partner before test</b>				
Peaceful	209(99.5%)	1(.5%)	1.0	1.0
With disagreement	96(84.2%)	18(15.8%)	<b>0.03(0.003, 0.2)*</b>	<b>0 .01(0.001, 0.2)**</b>
<b>Discussion before test (HIV)</b>				
Yes	286(99.3%)	2(.7%)	1.0	1.0
No	19(52.8%)	17(47.2%)	<b>0.01(0.002, 0.04) *</b>	<b>0.07(0.01, 0.98)**</b>
<b>Know partner's HIV status</b>				
Yes	288 (99.7%)	1(.3%)	1.0	1.0
No	17(48.6%)	18(51.4%)	<b>0.003 (0.001, 0.03)*</b>	<b>0.003(0.001, 0.1)**</b>
<b>Duration since ART started</b>				
=<24	96(88.1%)	13(11.9%)	1.0	1.0
25-48	105(96.3%)	4(3.7%)	<b>3.6(1.1, 11.3)</b>	2.3(0.09, 55.2)
=>49	104(98.1%)	2(1.9%)	<b>7.1(1.6, 32.0)*</b>	1.3(0.05, 33)
<b>No of partner since started ART</b>				
Single	291(95.4%)	14(4.6%)	<b>7.42(2.34, 23.52) *</b>	0.9(0.08, 46)
Multiple	14(73.7%)	5(26.3%)	1.0	1.0
<b>Use condom regularly</b>				
Yes	195(99%)	2(1%)	<b>15.5(3.5, 68.3)*</b>	0.01(0.00, 1.5)
No	107(86.3%)	17(13.7%)	1.0	1.0
<b>Type of partner</b>				
Non regular	31(81.6%)	7(18.4%)	1.0	1.0
Regular	274(95.8%)	12(4.2%)	<b>5.16(1.89, 14.06) *</b>	0.2(0.004, 6.7)

\*Statistically significant at p-value < 0.05

\*\* Significant after adjusted for other variables

**Table 6:** Factors associated with HIV status disclosure among HIV positive ART users Assela, Arsi, zone 2012/13.

Variables	Condom use		(COR 95%CI)	(AOR 95% CI)
	Consistent	inconsistent/ not used at all		
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	110(69.6%)	87(52.4%)	<b>2.1(1.3, 3.28)</b>	<b>2.0(1.2, 3.64) **</b>
Female	48(30.4%)	79(47.6%)	1.0	1.0
<b>Duration since ART started</b>				
≤24	96(88.1%)	13(11.9%)	1.0	1.0
25-48	105(96.3%)	4(3.7%)	<b>2.2(1.3, 3.8)</b>	1.8(0.88, 3.1)
≥49	104(98.1%)	2(1.9%)	<b>2.3(1.4, 4.0)</b>	<b>2.2(1.17, 4.03)**</b>
<b>Reside in the same house</b>				
Yes	182 (63.4%)	105(35.6%)	<b>2.6 (1.3, 5.73)</b>	0.69(0.2, 2.3)
No	15(40.5%)	22(59.5%)	1.0	1.0
<b>Discussion about HIV</b>				
Yes	187(64.9%)	101(35.1%)	<b>3.46(1.1, 10.90)</b>	<b>2.9(1.03, 8.2)**</b>
No	10(27.8%)	26(72.2%)	1.0	1.0
<b>Knowledge of partners HIV status</b>				
Yes	185(64%)	104(36%)	<b>3.5(1.68, 7 .35)</b>	0.62(0.2, 1.9)
No	12(34.3%)	23(65.7%)	1.0	1.0
<b>Disclosed HIV status to partner</b>				
Yes	195(63.9%)	110(36.1%)	<b>15(3.4, 66.4)</b>	6(0.75, 48.4)

\*Statistically significant at p-value < 0.05

\*\* Significant after adjusted for other variables

**Table 7:** Factors associated with condom use among PLWHA who are taking ART in Assela , Arsi zone, 2012/13.

found to be determinants of consistent condom use (Table 7). Being male is two times more likely used condom consistently than female respondents (AOR=2.0; 95% CI: 1.2, 3.64). And the odds of consistent condom use among the respondents who discussed about HIV with their partner was almost three times higher than respondents who did not discuss about HIV (AOR=2.9; 95% CI: 1.1 to 8.2). Participants who were taking ART at least for forty nine months were more likely used condom compared to other group (AOR=2.17; 95% CI:1.17,4.03).

## Discussion

This facility based cross sectional study was intended to provide insight into sero status disclosure patterns and sexual behavior among PLWHAs who are taking ART treatment from Assela town health institution. The results of the study raise several critical public health concerns that have key implications for interventions aimed at reducing HIV infection. The results show that sero status disclosure and sexual behavior among sero-concordant and sero-discordant partners was mainly influenced by individual level, socio demographic and socio economic factors such as marital status, duration of test, discussion about HIV with partner, type of relationship, number of partners, Knowledge of partner's HIV status, and type of partners.

The general level of disclosure in this study was high (96%) told to at least one person, this result was comparable to a study done in Nigeria which was (97%) [5]. But it is higher than the study done in kemisie, Jimma university hospital and Hawasa University referral hospital which were (94.5%), (90.8%) and (85.7%) respectively [7-9]. Still much higher than in Barbados about, (58.2%) of those interviewed had disclosed their HIV status to significant others [6]. This difference may be due to variations in study setting, study time, study population and mass media educations about the issue

The current finding of not disclosing HIV sero-status to the regular sexual partner (5.9%) was nearly comparable with a study conducted in kemisie district, Ethiopia (6.9%) [9] and but lower than the study conducted in Nigeria (10%) [5]. The possible reason for discrepancy with Nigerian study might be due to variations in health policy or mass media promotions in disclosure and or regular health education given during follow up in ART clinic.

In agreement with other studies, the proportion of disclosure to casual sex partners in this study was much lower than disclosure to regular sexual partners (34.2% vs. 94.1%). Possible explanation for this is that those patients on ART who disclosed their HIV status were due to a sense of responsibility to their main partners and less concern for casual partners' health. Although the magnitude of sero status disclosure found in this study is encouraging, significant proportion (30.5%) of the disclosures were delayed, which is higher than a study done in Jimma University hospital (14.1%) [13]. This might be individuals differ in decision making when and how to disclose their result. As a result these individuals had at least one sexual contact with their untold sexual partner before disclosure which raises the possibility of transmission risk if condom were not used.

Concerning barriers of sero status disclosure the most common reason mentioned by the participants were fear of abandonment, fear of labeling as bad person and fear of breach of confidentiality. This was in line with other studies which was done in Jimma University hospital, kemise, and metu town [8,13].

Regarding outcome of disclosure 72.5% of the respondents were reported supportive reaction from their partner. This result was similar to the studies conducted in Mettu and Jimma town [7,13]. This is also

supported by qualitative study. But higher than a study conducted in Hawasa University Referral hospital which was (40.7%) [9]. In this study negative outcomes like violence and breaking in sexual relationship following disclosure were only (4%). This is comparable with a study reported in sub-Saharan Africa (5%) [2]. But it was much lower than that reported in South Africa and Hawasa University Referral hospital (14.6%) and (14.3%) respectively [9,14]. This variation may be due to variations of study populations, health institution specific promotions of disclosure and stigma and discriminations following disclosure.

In this study, it was observed that being living in the same home, having duration of test greater than two years, having peaceful relation with partner, Prior discussion about HIV test, and knowledge of partner's HIV status, were among factors associated with disclosure of HIV status to main sexual partner. And this is consistent with studies elsewhere in our country [7,8].

The current finding revealed as HIV sero-positive participants who had duration of test greater than two years were eight times more likely disclosed their status to their sexual. This implies that sero status disclosure increases over time as people adjust to their results [12]. Similar to other study participants who were living with disagreement relation with their partner were less likely to disclose their status than their counter parts. This might be due to having disagreement relations leading to less discussion about HIV and HIV testing which may later make difficult to disclose their sero status.

The current study revealed that the proportion of consistent condom use since they knew their HIV status was (60.8%). This was comparable with a research done in North shewa Zone and Addis Ababa public hospitals which was (62%) and (63.1%) respectively [10,11]. Unprotected sex and inconsistent use of condom among PLWHA increases the risk of transmission of resistant HIV strains and re-infection with new strains, unwanted pregnancy and mother to child transmission of HIV. But higher than study done in Kampala Uganda which was (45.5%). The variation with Kampala Uganda study might be due to discrepancies in study area, study time promotion and accessibility of condom.

The finding of proportion of condom use at last sex (71.9%) in this study was in line with a study in Addis Ababa public hospitals (70.4%) and North shewa health facility (73.1%) respectively [10,11,15]. But higher than a study done in Mombassa (44%) [15]. The similarity between the two findings might be due to similarity in study design and study setting and health policy of the country and the discrepancy with Mombassa study could be partially explained by variation in the study setting health policy and cultural differences of the study population.

Important finding of this research is that the proportion of consistent condom use among disclosed respondents were high (63.5% vs. 10.5%) compared to those did not disclose their HIV positive status. In addition the odds of consistent condom use among disclosed partners were nearly five times higher than their counter parts and this finding was supported by a prior study [7]. Finding from qualitative respondents were also support this idea. This show that facilitating HIV status disclosure is a key point for consistent condom use and it helps in reducing HIV transmission.

The current finding of having multiple partners (5.9%) was in parallel with a study done in South Africa (5.6%). But lower than a study done in Addis Ababa public hospitals (10%) and much lower than a study done in North shewa zone (42.7%) [10,11]. The variation with the last finding may possibly attributable by differences in study populations which are living a capital city of Ethiopia in case of Addis

Ababa and similarly North shewa zone is found near Addis Ababa thus these areas easily get different channels of mass media which gives health education about HIV and its prevention methods.

In contrary with other study the commonest reason mentioned for not using condom were partner's refusal (37.4%) followed by condom take away the pleasure of sex (24.2%). In other way the reason mentioned in the study conducted in North shewa zone Health facility were both partners being infected with HIV (41.2%) followed by partners refusal (16.2%) this finding is inconsistent with other studies done in Ethiopia [7,10,11]. The difference may be explained as people may be give different reasons for their bad behaviors . So efforts should be strengthen on sexual health intervention focusing on the couple than the individual and monitoring of client's attitudes and practice on their follow up period.

## Conclusions

Large level of respondents were disclosed their sero status to their partner. One of the implications of this high disclosure rate is the likelihood of a high rate of partner support and having clear communication about preventive interventions. Prior discussion about HIV tes, living in the same home with partner, having peaceful relation with partner, duration of test and knowledge of partners' status were significantly associated with sero status disclosure.

Significant proportions of inconsistent condom use were reported among the respondents. Prior discussion about HIV TEST, duration since ART started, history of condom use and sex of respondent were found to be determinants of consistent condom use. Based on the finding ART scale-up programs should further enhance disclosure of sero-status and condom use by behavioral change health education and condom promotion using different Medias.

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