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SoBeVacH – Socio-Behavioral aspects regarding participation to HIV vaccine clinical trials among young people in Maputo, Mozambique**Igor Paulo Ubisse Capitine***National Institute of Health, Mozambique*

It is paramount to understand social-behavioral aspects and the effects of experimental vaccines on trial participants, that can impede trial conduct and eventual vaccine uptake. As part of a 2-year follow-up incidence study, a willingness to participate (WTP) questionnaire was administered to a cohort of 577 HIV-negative young adult participants (study I). Research subjects who participated in a phase II HIV vaccine trial, answered to the same semi-structured questionnaire and participated in 12 in-depth interviews and 3 focus group discussion (study II). At screening 529 (92%) expressed WTP and the proportion remained stable at 378 (88%) of the 430 participants retained through the exit visit ($p=0.209$). Helping the country ($n=556$) and fear of needles ($n=26$) were the top motive and barrier for WTP, respectively. The health belief model was used to explain the decision-making progress to participate in a HIV vaccine study. HIV susceptibility, infection severity and benefits of participating in a HIV vaccine trial must outweigh barriers for trial participation in order to promote the switch from intention to action. Participants also suffered negative social harm driven mainly by HIV stigma from family and peers regarding their participation in HIV vaccine trials. The present research reports a continuous high intention to participate in HIV vaccine trial among young adults in Maputo city and identified the factors associated with it. It also describes how actual participants of a phase II HIV clinical trial reason their participation and the factors associated with their retention participation in the HIV vaccine trial.

Biography

Igor Paulo Ubisse Capitine, is a reserarch medical doctor at the National Institute of Health of Mozambique, with 10 years of experience in the implementation of clinical trials of preventive vaccines (HIV, Pólio and COVID-19). He recently completed is PhD in Medical Research – International Health at the University of Munich, and is currently involved in expanding the capacity to implement preventive vaccine clinical trials in Mozambique, as well as leading the implementation of clinical trials in different parts of the country. He was part of the Scientific Comitte at the National Institute of Health.