



# **Optimising the Impact of PMTCT of HIV in South Africa: The Forgotten Half of the Equation**

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**The role of fathers in mother and child outcomes**

# Hypothesis

**Male sexual partner (MSP)  
ANC HIV VCT invitation**



**Increase MSP ANC HIV VCT  
uptake without an increase in  
intimate partner violence**



**Decrease sexual risk behaviour**



**Decrease in horizontal & vertical  
HIV transmission**

# Study Location: Khayelitsha, Cape Peninsular







Women attending ANC in Khayelitsha Site B MOU

Men in Khayelitsha waiting to be picked up for casual work





# Methods

**Community sensitization activities**

**Started 6 months before the trial &  
continued during the trial**

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# Methods: Clinical Trial Endpoints

## Primary

**% partners agreeing to attend for VCT**

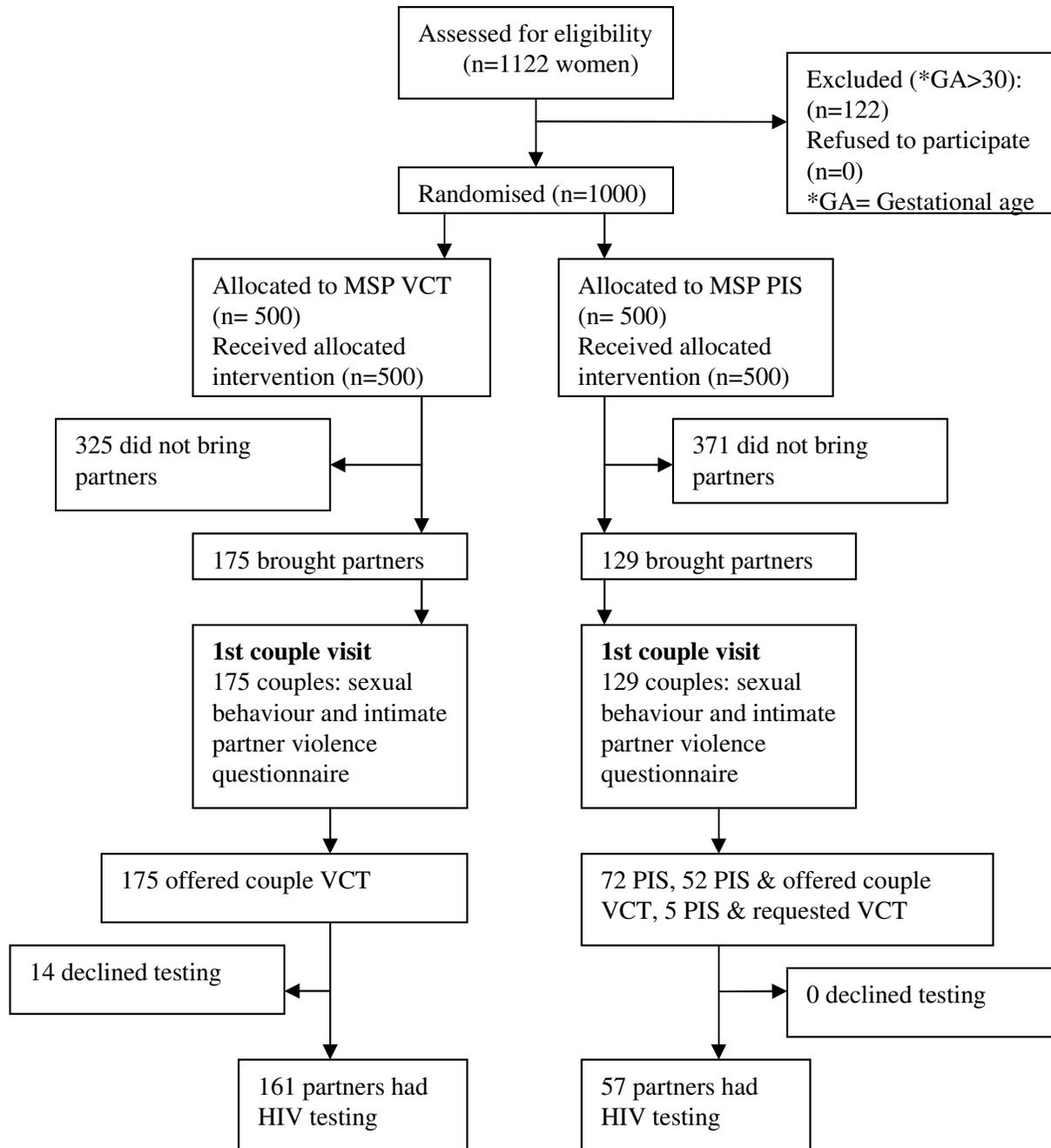
**% partners undergoing HIV testing**

## Secondary

**% partners using condoms consistently**

**% partners involved in intimate partner violence**

# Methods: Clinical Trial Flow Diagram







# Baseline Characteristics

**Woman & Partner's age**

**Education,**

**Employment,**

**Living arrangement,**

**Sexual relationship status,**

**Duration of relationship,**

**HIV status, Cd4+**

**Pregnancy planned**



## Results: Primary Outcomes

### Male partner attendance

- 35% (VCT invitation) vs. 26% (PIS invitation)
- RR = 1.36 (95% CI, 1.12-1.64); P = 0.002

### Male partner HIV testing

- 92% (VCT invitation) vs. 44% (PIS invitation)
- RR = 2.82 (95% CI, 2.14-3.72); P < 0.0001

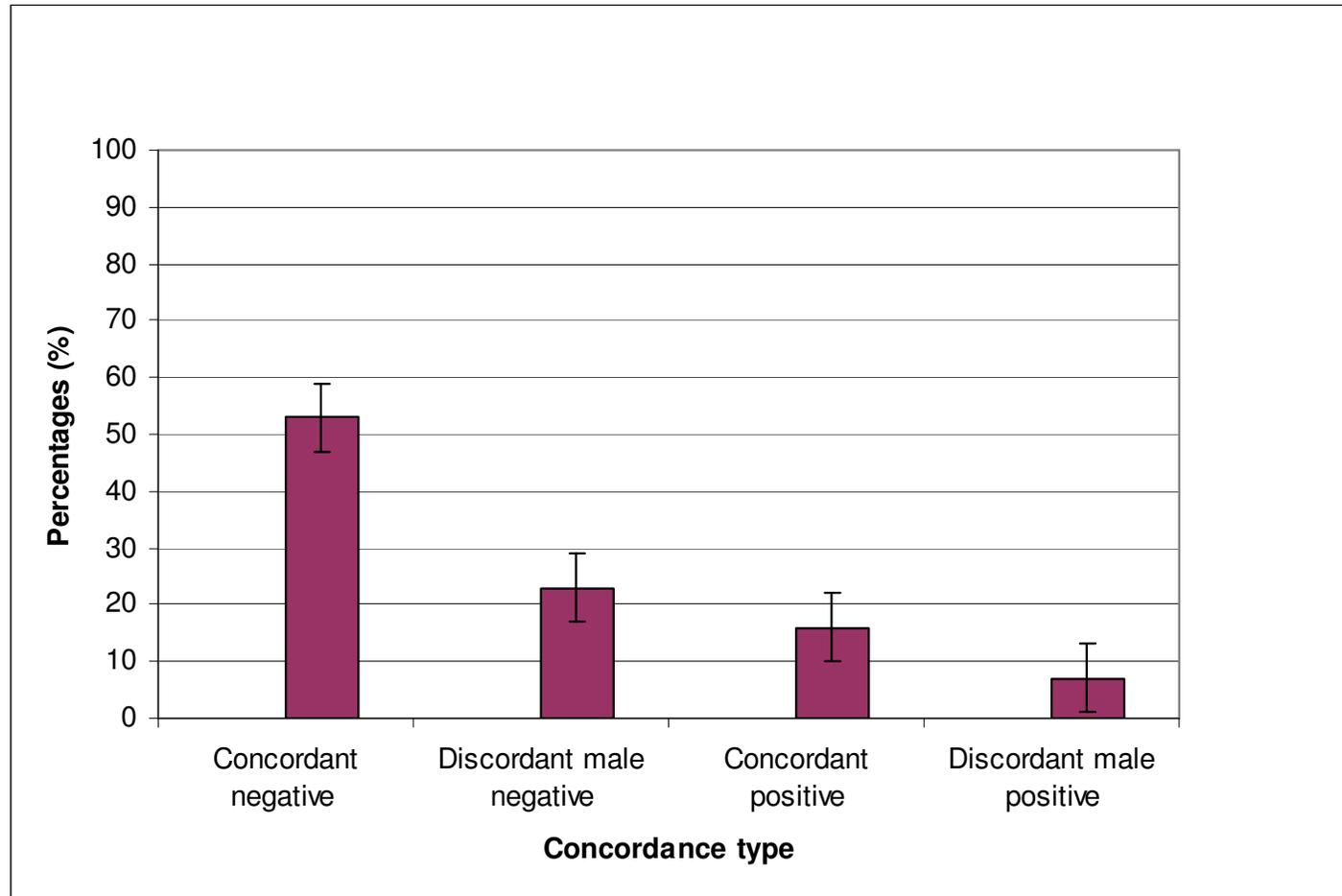


## Results: Multivariate Analysis

- **After Adjusting for:**
- **woman's age, partner's age, gestational age, living arrangement, partner's tertiary education, woman's HIV status, and planned pregnancy,**
- **the results were still significant**
- **OR = 1.52 (95% CI, 1.15-2.01); P = 0.003**

# Results: Secondary Analyses

## HIV concordance & discordance





# Results: Secondary Analyses

## Sero-conversion

- 1 woman (VCT invitation) vs. 2 women (PIS invitation)
- Risk ratio 0.5 (95% CI, 0.05-5.49); P = 1.000
- Babies: 0 (at 14 weeks)



## Results: Secondary Analyses

### Intimate partner violence (IPV) at follow up

- for women:
  - 4% (7) (VCT invitation) vs. 7% (10) (PIS invitation)  $P = 0.207$
- for men:
  - 0.5% (1) (VCT invitation) vs 3% (4) (PIS invitation)  $P = 0.167$



# Results: Secondary Analyses

## High risk sexual behaviour at follow up

- **Sexual activity without condoms: 26% (VCT arm) vs. 76% (PIS arm);  $P < 0.001$**
- ***Total* numbers of reported sexual acts with pregnancy partners in the 2 weeks before the second couple visit were *higher* in the VCT arm vs. the PIS arm (2.0 vs. 1.4,  $P = 0.003$ )**
- **However, the numbers of *unprotected* sexual acts with pregnancy partners were *lower* in the VCT arm vs. the PIS arm: (0.5 vs. 1.1,  $P = 0.002$ )**



# Discussion

- The study was conducted in an area where ART was available which might have encouraged men to attend.
- Whilst the results suggest that male partners will attend for ANC and VCT in these circumstances, it is not clear if a similar response would be observed in areas where ART is not available.
- The proportions of respondents reporting intimate partner violence were very small and did not differ between the two study arms; however, this may have been due to under-reporting.
- The small numbers may also have limited the power to detect differences in this study.
- These questions including cost analysis need to be addressed in future studies.

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