Determinants of HIV Type 1 Shedding from Genital Ulcers among Men in South Africa

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Research Objective
Evaluation of correlation of (HIV-1) lesional shedding among men with genital ulcer disease.

Experimental Design
Participants were serologically screened for HIV infection, syphilis, and herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2) infection and for urethritis and ulcer etiology. Variables associated with the presence and quantity of HIV-1 in ulcers were evaluated.

Testing Platform
Plasma and genital ulcer HIV-1 loads and CD4 cell counts quantified by qPCR.

AssayAssure Use
Swabs were collected from genital ulcers and were resuspended in AssayAssure™ for qPCR analysis.

Outcome
Men with larger lesions, purulent and multiple ulcers, higher plasma viral loads, and HSV-2 seropositivity were at increased odds of HIV-1 shedding and men infected with T. vaginalis had higher ulcer HIV-1 loads.

Reference
Gabriela Paz-Bailey, Maya Sternberg, Adrian J. Puren, Lisa Steele, and David A. Lewis, Determinants of HIV Type 1 Shedding from Genital Ulcers among Men in South Africa, Clinical Infectious Diseases 2010; 50:1060–1067