

A randomized, four-arm open label Phase IIb clinical trial to evaluate the Pharmacokinetics, Safety/tolerability and Efficacy of High Dose Rifampicin in TB-HIV co-infected patients on Efavirenz- or dolutegravir-based antiretroviral therapy (SAEFRIF)

Participants' Focus Group Discussions guide

For the facilitator:

This is what we would like to understand:

- 1- side effects or 'difficulty' with TB prescribed medication
- 2 – **detailed** description of self-prescribed medication
- 3- experiences and reasons for other self-prescribed medication; how, why, etc
- 4- experiences of taking both prescribed+self-prescribed medication

I. Opening Remarks (2 Minutes)

Thank you for coming today. I am a for the SAEFRIF study. The goal of today's meeting is to understand how TB patients use other medications apart from the ones prescribed by a doctor at the TB treatment center.

It is common for patients to take medications other than those prescribed by their clinicians and these may include herbal medicine. Some of these medications are known to interact with the medications prescribed or increase known toxicities. We want to find out if taking medicine prescribed by a doctor together with other combination of drugs that may be given by a doctor and or those chosen by the patient have any positive or negative effects. We would like to understand how patients take and use drugs prescribed by doctors and those that they choose for themselves. We are not going to judge anyone's choices. However, information you share will enable us to understand how the medication may affect TB treatment outcomes.

We understand that participants assigned to the high dose arm may have experienced challenges with the many pills. We therefore like to understand what challenges they may have experienced. The information we collect will enable us to make recommendations to improve TB treatment. Your identity will not be disclosed in any of the reports.

Please ask if you have any questions before we proceed.

(Questions raised will be answered at the end of interview unless they affect the interview flow)

There are only a few basic rules to keep in mind while participating in this discussion

- a) Everyone should be an active participant.
- b) You will be given a code name, mention it every time you proceed with the discussion to enable us capture the flow of the discussion.

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- c) We will record the discussion on an audio tape and also take notes to help our analysis. However, your names will not be used.
- d) There are no “right” or “wrong” answers, we are interested in your opinions Speak freely and loudly but only one person should speak at a time.

II. Side effects experienced (15minutes)

- a) Did you experience any side effects/toxicity due to the TB drugs?
- b) If so, what side effects did you experience?
- c) Is there any other side effect that you experienced?
- d) What do you think caused this side effect?
- e) Is there anything else that you think may have caused the side effects?
- f) How about in other people who experienced the toxicity, What do you think caused the toxicities?
- g) Did you take any medication to treat the toxicity?

III. Use of other medication other than TB prescribed treatment(20minutes)

- a) Some people may have taken medication that is not prescribed at the TB clinic.
Do you know of some people who took these medications while they were on TB treatment?
- b) If Yes, what type of medicines do/did they take? Please describe in detail.
- c) Where do they get them from?
- d) What was is the purpose of the medicine?
- e) How often may they have taken it or do they take it?
- f) Did the patients get any relief from taking that medicine or treatment?
- g) What are some of the reasons people have taken other medications?
- h) What are some of the experiences people have had when taking both prescribed medication with medication that is self-prescribed?

IV. Experiences and opinions on high dose TB therapy (20mins)

- a) What do you think about the higher dose of TB therapy?
- b) How would you compare the higher dose with the standard dose?
- c) Do you think taking a higher dose can affect adherence in any way?
- d) What would you tell someone who is selected to participate in this kind of research
- e) What would you tell someone who is assigned a higher than standard dose of TB therapy?
- f) What kinds of difficulties have people felt with the TB medication? Any side effects from these drugs?
- g) How have people coped with the side effects?

V. Closing

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Thank you for taking time to participate in this discussion, we have learnt a lot from you. Your feedback will be included in a report (all feedback is reported anonymously). Your insights will be helpful in future recommendations regarding this topic.