

Conflicting explanatory models of HIV-1 and their relevance for patient care.

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Projektteam:

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Objective:

The difference between the explanatory models of health and ill-health held by patients and health care providers, widely theorized in medical anthropology, have been shown to influence the health care process profoundly. We hypothesize that one reason for noncompliance with health care and long-term prophylactic treatment in HIV-1 is the disparity in explanatory models between patients and doctors.

Methods:

The study groups include A) asymptomatic HIV-positive persons in different stages of disease progression, B) medical doctors, C) health care providers in complementary medicine. The study is structured in two steps: 1) semi-structured interviewing for qualitative data (n=10 of each study group) and 2) questionnaires for quantitative verification of the findings (n=100 of each study group).

Expected Results:

The study started in April 97 with Step 1). We expect to ascertain and evaluate explanatory models in HIV/AIDS held by the different parties involved in the health care process and compare them to show points of conflict. Through evaluation and comparison of the different explanatory models, a model will be designed to improve doctor-patient relations and compliance with health care and long-term prophylactic treatment.