THE EXPERIENCE OF AFRICAN WOMEN DIAGNOSED WITH BOTH HIV/AIDS AND CERVICAL CANCER

by

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submitted in part fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

in the subject

PUBLIC HEALTH

at the

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

SUPERVISOR: PROFESSOR TR MAVUNDLA

March 2005
DECLARATION

I declare that THE EXPERIENCE OF AFRICAN WOMEN DIAGNOSED WITH BOTH HIV/AIDS AND CERVICAL CANCER is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references and that this work has not been submitted before for any other degree at any institution.

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(Signature)
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ABSTRACT

This qualitative study explored and described the experience of African women diagnosed with both HIV/AIDS and cervical cancer in order to gain an understanding of the experience of both illnesses as lived by these women. Phenomenological research methods were employed using in-depth semi-structured interviews. Communication as a strategy facilitating diagnosis, disclosure, acceptance and support for women with HIV/AIDS and cervical cancer emerged as the main theme, followed by the experience of physical symptoms and emotional experiences. The study shows the importance of communication in the management and support of these women attending public health institutions and in the community. For communication to occur the relationship between healthcare professionals and women diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and cervical cancer is very important. Treatment approaches in radiation therapy need to be developed for women diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and cervical. More research is needed in this area (HIV/AIDS and cervical cancer).

Key words

African women; experience; HIV/AIDS; cervical cancer; qualitative; phenomenology; radiotherapy
Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Almighty God for giving me the opportunity to complete this study, and give Him all the praise, thanks and glory (Deuteronomy 8:17-18).

I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to the following persons:

- Prof TR Mavundla, my Supervisor and mentor, for his encouragement and all he taught me
- My mother, Albertinah, and Rita (wife) and Yvonne (sister), for their faith in me, support and encouragement
- Mrs TA Burger, the Unisa librarian, for her patience and assistance with literature sources
- My family and friends, for their encouragement, support and belief in me
- Johannesburg and Hillbrow Hospitals for allowing me to conduct the study
- The respondents, for sharing their time, feelings and experiences with me and helping me to grow
- Ms Iauma Cooper, for her critical reading and editing of the manuscript

To you all, my sincere thanks and love. May people be as caring and helpful to you as you have been to me. May God Almighty richly bless you.