

**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**

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**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**SUPERVISOR: PROFESSOR TR MAVUNDLA**

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## 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.

.....  
Emmanuel Maboko  
(Signature)

.....  
Date

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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

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