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Filming Real HIV Patient Cases in India

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Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to articulate strategies for documenting HIV patient cases in a resource-constrained hospital setting, balancing the need for accurate footage with institutional sensitivities and patient confidentiality.

Partnership Model

I-TECH, an NGO focused on HIV/AIDS healthcare worker training and capacity-building partnered with a large public hospital to document real patient cases in a structured video format, for dissemination nationwide in India as part of HIV ART scale-up.

Background

India must train large numbers of physicians to recognize and properly treat opportunistic infections. Video is a powerful way to present standardized, structured, rich media as a trigger for classroom discussion and visual diagnosis. This project used the large patient volume at Government Hospital of Thoracic Medicine, Chennai, India (GHTM) to document real patient cases of ten common HIV OIs.

Design/Methods

Long-standing partnership between I-TECH and GHTM allowed mutual trust in which partners settled complex issues of patient consent, use of hospital physicians as on-camera faculty, and positive portrayal of care in hospital wards despite hospital's resource constraints. A list of HIV OIs to cover was pre-planned, and clinical staff were identified as potential on-screen presenters for each OI. During production, suitable patients were identified and approached for consent, then filmed in a specially created private setting.

Result/Outcomes

Ten video cases were successfully filmed during an intensive two-week period in June, 2006. Several potential patient participants did not consent, confirming the strength of consent procedures in place. The videos cases are divided into History, Exam and Lab Investigations sections, presented on-camera by clinical staff from both partners, I-TECH and GHTM. Technical experts reviewed scripts and finished cases, which will be used nation-wide in India by multiple partners, beginning in 2007. Ancillary outcome included in-depth exam and review of each patient's chart, leading to improved care.

Impact of Partnership

Filming healthcare requires a great deal of trust between institutions, and from the patients and providers, since video captures facility conditions, quality of care, and treatment protocols, as well as personal and private medical conditions. These issues were successfully surmounted to create a powerful series of videos which balanced issues of sensitivity and confidentiality, and institutional nervousness about documentary portrayal of care, with the power of real-life patient case video as a clinical teaching and sensitization tool