

No. 46

BULLETIN

JULY



Kaposi's Sarcoma

Kaposi's Sarcoma was one of the first diseases observed in People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV), and continues to be one of the most common types of cancers in PLHIV. Although the human herpes virus 8 is the causal agent, the virus alone is not enough for Kaposi's Sarcoma to occur. Deficiencies in the immune systems, like the ones present in PLHIV, can allow the virus to cause the disease.

What are the symptoms of Kaposi's Sarcoma?

The tumors or lesions often appear as bluish-red or purple bulges on the skin. These colors occur due to their abundant composition of blood. The lesions can appear on the feet or ankles, the thighs, arms, hands, face or any other part of the body.

The lesions on the skin tend not to be fatal. Nevertheless, they can be very traumatic, especially when they appear on the face. With time, these lesions can aggravate and make themselves more visible and painful.

The lesions on the mouth can make it very difficult and painful to eat. The gastrointestinal lesions can cause diarrhea, cramps, and hemorrhaging. Kaposi's Sarcoma of the lungs can cause grave difficulties and pain when breathing.

How is Kaposi's Sarcoma diagnosed?

Cutaneous lesions tend to be diagnosed through a biopsy. To carry out a biopsy on cutaneous lesions, a small sample is

taken from the lesion and is sent to a laboratory to be examined. The results from the laboratory will determine the type of tumor. For diagnosis of lesions on other parts of the body, more complex examinations are needed.

How is Kaposi's Sarcoma treated?

Because cutaneous lesions of Kaposi's Sarcoma are not fatal, it is not always necessary to treat them. Several treatments exist that can be applied directly to the skin to treat certain lesions. However, generally, these topical treatments do not prevent the occurrence of new lesions. Systemic treatment may be necessary to treat Kaposi's Sarcoma in other organs.

No treatment is 100% effective every time. In almost all studies, few patients observe the absolute eradication of lesions. In some patients, the lesions do not disappear, but the size, shape, colors, and volumes improve significantly.

What do you do if you think you have Kaposi's Sarcoma?

Impacta is currently carrying out a study for PLHIV who have Kaposi's Sarcoma. This study is focused on treating the initial stages of sarcoma. Our organization offers evaluations, diagnoses, and treatment of patients that qualify for this study at no charge. Give us a call toll-free at 0800-17432.

Dr. José Gonzales
Infectious Disease Specialist
Asociación Civil Impacta

OUTSIDE HOUSE



CERITS Piedra Liza

The Asociación Civil Impacta fulfills its promise of bringing health and education to the community, supporting the academic activities organized by the health advocates of CERTIS "Piedra Liza" on Saturday, July 19th. Topics talked about included Antiretroviral Treatment of HIV, accompanied by an activity that emphasized the importance of adherence for successful treatment.



Tour of Heroes

On Saturday, July 29th, we carried out the Tour of Heroes with GELLUX and EXA-MAN who enjoy and present their sensual dances, as they do every month. In addition, they present us with new methods for prevention. We thank the discotecas Vale Todo, Legendaris, 80 Divas, Sagitario, La Cueva y los Bares Pecados, Kprichos, and La Jarrita, who always kindly open their doors for us. The fight against HIV never ends for them. We will see you again soon!

WE PARTICIPATE



AID FOR AIDS PERÚ

AID FOR AIDS PERU celebrated 15 years of work with a dinner-gala at the United Nations headquarters in Lima on Friday, July 11th. Business owners, artists, as well as non-profit organizations were present at the event. Impacta put together a display of Quilts for Love to make way for the guests. We give thanks to Ernesto Pimentel for inviting us, and we hope that Quilts for Love continues expressing how thousands of Peruvians feel about HIV/AIDS.



Socios en Salud
Community Advisory Board

On July 8th, we assisted a Community Advisory Board presentation (CAB), put on by the non-profit organization Partners in Health (PIH). The presentation was lead by Dr. Leonid Lecca, director of PIH, and by Mr. Jorge Mendoza, president of CAB. The goal of the meeting was to make community participation in investigations stronger, expressed by formally established community boards. Civil servants of the Ministry of Health, community leaders, and other non-profit organizations were called upon to participate in the presentation.

Photo taken from Facebook/Socios en Salud



WOMEN'S INVESTIGATIONS

By: Marina Soto Calderón- Representative of ICW- Perú

For a while now, different investigations are being developed across the world to measure the impact of certain medications in our bodies. These investigations are directed by men, not women, which puts us at a disadvantage in knowing the possible adverse or beneficial effects of new biomedical products.

Many investigations analyze a certain type of population, depending on their vulnerability. For example, the majority of people researched in HIV are gay, MSM, and trans, excluding women, even though we also must use medical and technological innovation for ourselves as well.

Studies related to inflammations show how we respond to them, helping ensure that women have a better response to treatment. Why don't we continue to go deeper into these studies? Investing in ourselves will allow us to establish more communication with reality with the end goal of knowing our treatment better.

It is important to acknowledge studies about women because we contribute so much scientific information and technology to solve the problems of diverse diseases, and identify the correct way to navigate the investigation and the appropriate techniques to navigate them precisely.

We do not intend to put our gender above other genders, nor do we try to measure the profitability of our investigations. Rather, we try to make the studies equal, to also be able to take advantage of medical advances.



Additionally, our biological system has very particular characteristics; what happens in our sexual and reproductive health, in maternity or breast-feeding, does not compare with the anatomical or biological conditions of men.

In the 30 years since the rise of HIV, I am very grateful to wake up everyday and know that every step I take, I am working with a group of extraordinary women- sisters by blood, as we say- that walk together along the path of prevention, treatment, and rights for people with HIV in Perú.



Window to the community is an open space that community members can express, give their opinions, and shed light on their points of view. This new section will be in the Bulletin every month starting this month.

14th Anniversary of Impacta



The Impacta Civil Association of Health and Education was formed 14 years ago on July 4th, and there is no better way to celebrate the occasion than with family: directors, administrators, pharmacists, clinical staff, laboratory staff, community educators, data and system analysts, and maintenance staff were all in attendance. The Real Lima Club was the ideal scenario to share this day full of activities. Teams were identified by the colors blue, yellow, and red, competing in volleyball, soccer, and basketball. The commemorative evening soirée was closed with a very delicious lunch. Happy Birthday Impacta!



Plus Thursday

*Multiple sources of income
"Business networking ideas"*



Impact Thursday

Paternal instincts in gay men



Movie Thursday

*We screened the movie,
"Today I want to be single"*



Impact Thursday

*Interior decorations
Special guest: Architect Franz Rojas*



Party Thursday

*Karaoke Night and birthday
celebrations*