Abstract

A total of 231 ever married Chinese women were individually interviewed on their HIV-prevention behavior and gender-related psychosocial factors. Compared to women with intact marriages, women with varying degree of marital disruption endorsed more myths and inaccurate information about HIV/AIDS, had less worry about contracting HIV from their partners, and were less likely to use condoms in current and future sexual activities. Among sexually active Chinese married women, rates of condom use in the past six months were 60% for the intact group and 38% for the disrupted group. Factors that discriminated between condom non-users and users among sexually active women in the disrupted group included: conservative gender attitudes toward sexuality and sexual decision-making, negative attitudes toward condom use, and lack of concern about contracting HIV from their partners. The investigator argued that greater effort is required to address specific needs of Chinese women with disrupted marital relationship in order to design realistic HIV-prevention strategies for them.

Keywords: Chinese Women & AIDS/HIV Prevention; Gender and HIV Prevention; Marital Disruption & Condom Use