

Q&A from *The Impact of COVID-19 and Mpox on Aging Populations with HIV*

1. There is a growing body of research that investigates the long-term medical effects of COVID infection, and I was wondering if there is any concern that such effects might have greater implications in those living and aging with HIV?

Dr. Schmalzle's answer: Yes. There have just been a few small studies of post-acute sequelae of SARS CoV2 in PLWH so far, but they have shown an increased rate of long-term symptoms. The same goes for age, so this is definitely another area where the intersection of HIV and aging is likely to contribute additively or synergistically to worse experiences unfortunately.

2. I would love to hear your take on and reaction to the [news in The Guardian](#) of a "horrific" new form of Mpox that is affecting people living with HIV. Is it old news? Sensationalism?

Dr. Schmalzle's answer: The article is written in a sensationalist way to a degree, but it is unfortunately accurate. "Horrific" would accurately describe a few cases we've seen in Baltimore with absolutely disfiguring lesions and even death from Mpox. This more aggressive form seems to be associated with extremely low CD4 counts in PLWH not on ART, and it's also not known yet whether starting ART at this time point is contributing to Mpox-IRIS.