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APPENDICES

A. Copy of interview guide
B. Copy of biographical sheet
C. Copy of the consent form
D. Copies of MREC clearance certificate and hospital permission letter for the initial topic
E. Copies of MREC clearance certificate and hospital permission letter for the current topic
F. Copy of the indexing
DECLARATION

I declare that the dissertation hereby submitted to the University of Limpopo, for the degree of Master of Science in Clinical Psychology has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other university; that it is my work in design and in execution, and that all material contained herein has been duly acknowledged.

_________________________  ______________________.
Initials & Surname                Date

200817084

Student Number
DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my loving sister Portia Munyangane who offered me unconditional love and continuous support that inspired me to complete this dissertation with enthusiasm.
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ABSTRACT

HIV epidemic and elective termination of pregnancy are social and health problems faced by many women around the world including South Africa. A qualitative research methodology using a phenomenological approach was used to explore the experiences of five pregnant women who are diagnosed HIV positive and opting for elective termination of pregnancy at Dr George Mukhari Hospital. Semi-structured interviews were conducted utilizing an interview guide to collect data. Data was analyzed using a framework analysis approach.

Research findings showed that women experienced HIV positive diagnosis as overwhelming. During the time of the interview, some women they have already accepted their HIV positive status. Participants’ pregnancies were unintended as a result on non-utilization of contraceptives and inconsistent condom use. Reactions to the unintended pregnancy were characterized by mixed emotions. As a way of dealing with unintended pregnancy, all women decided on safe elective termination of pregnancy. Though women had mixed feelings and thoughts about termination of pregnancy, they had compelling reasons to opt for termination.

Further qualitative research is warranted to investigate experiences of women from various backgrounds. Furthermore, further research can investigate women’s pre-termination and post-termination experiences in order to have a full holistic understanding of their experiences.