

Impact of lipodystrophy on the experience of stigma and psychological well-being in people with HIV in Spain

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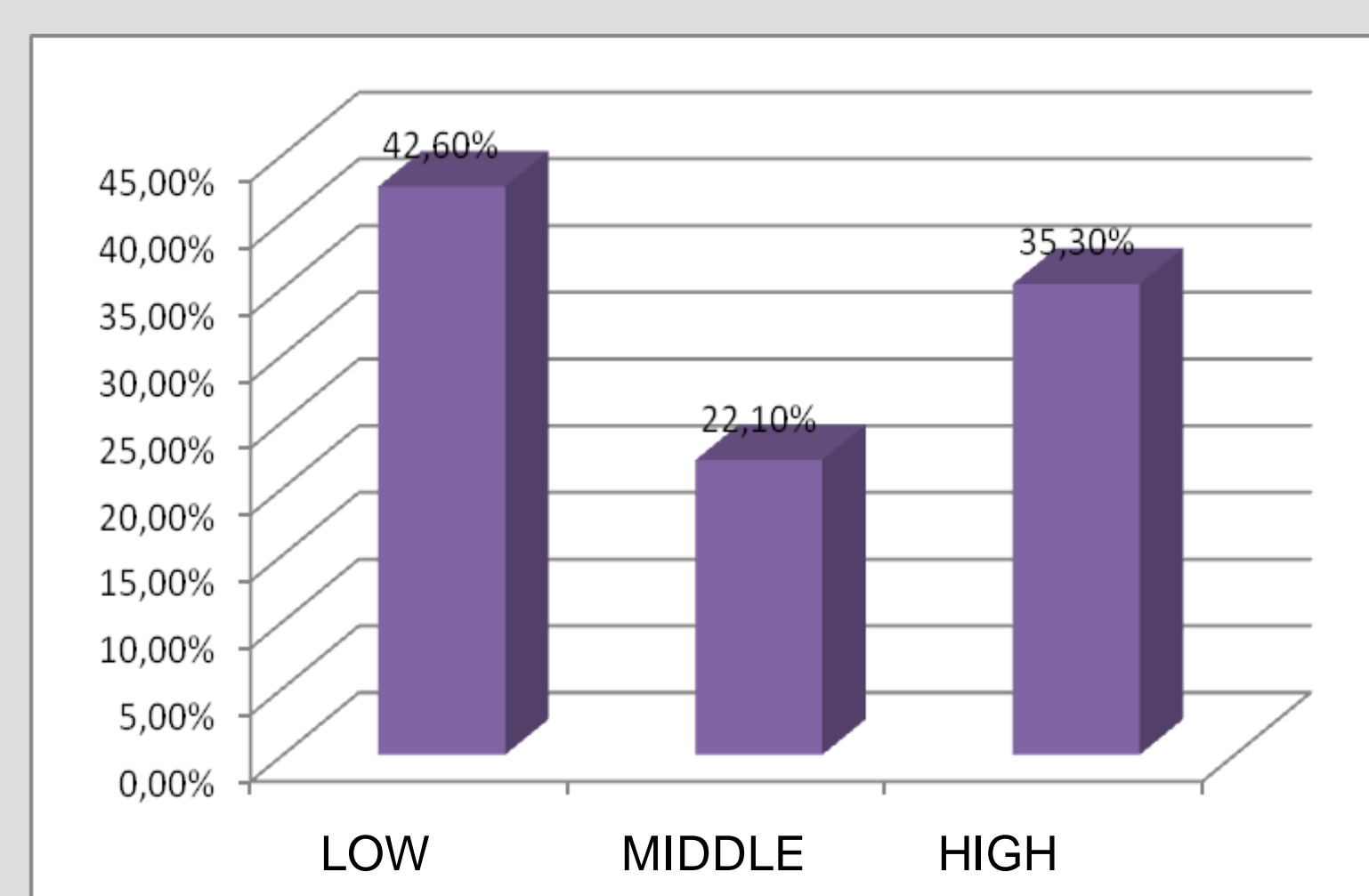


Objectives

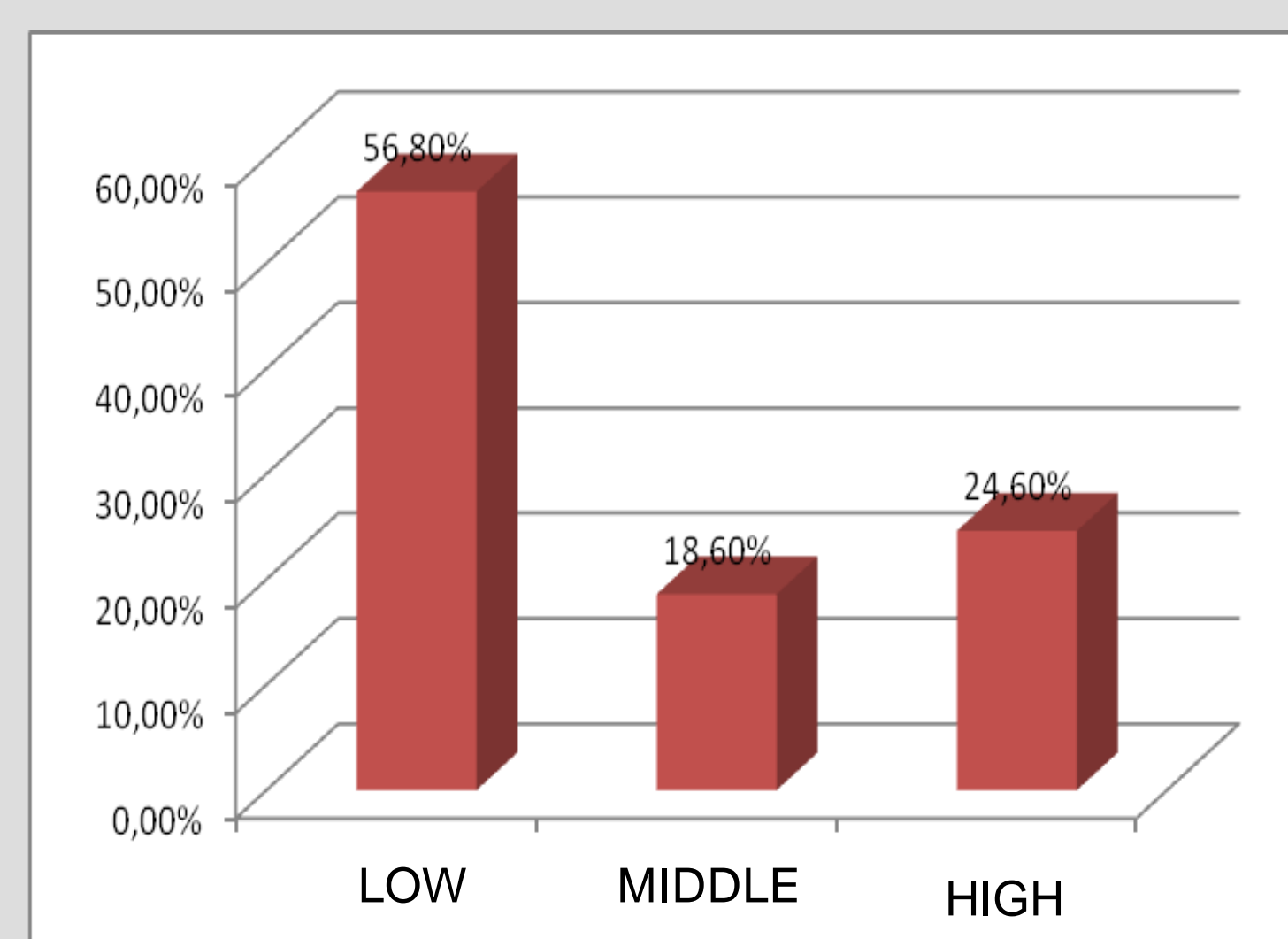
To analyze the causal relationship between perception of lipodystrophy, perceived discrimination and internalized stigma, and psychological well-being in people with HIV in Spain.

Results

DEGREE OF PERCEIVED LIPOATROPHY



DEGREE OF PERCEIVED LIPOHYPERTROPHY



Methods

Design: A cross sectional, correlational study

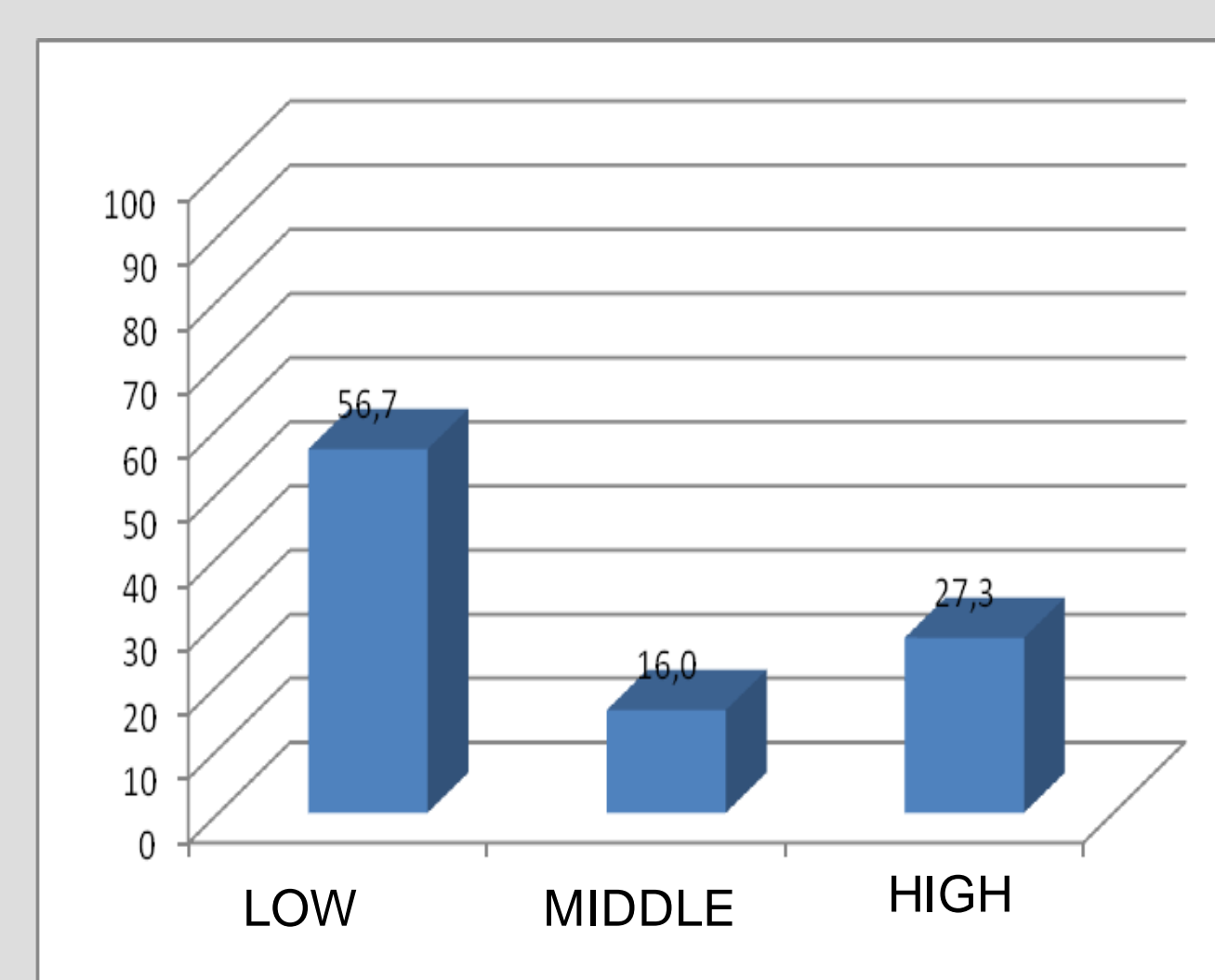
Participants: 706 HIV people, 70.8% men, 28% women y 1% transgender.

Variables and instruments:

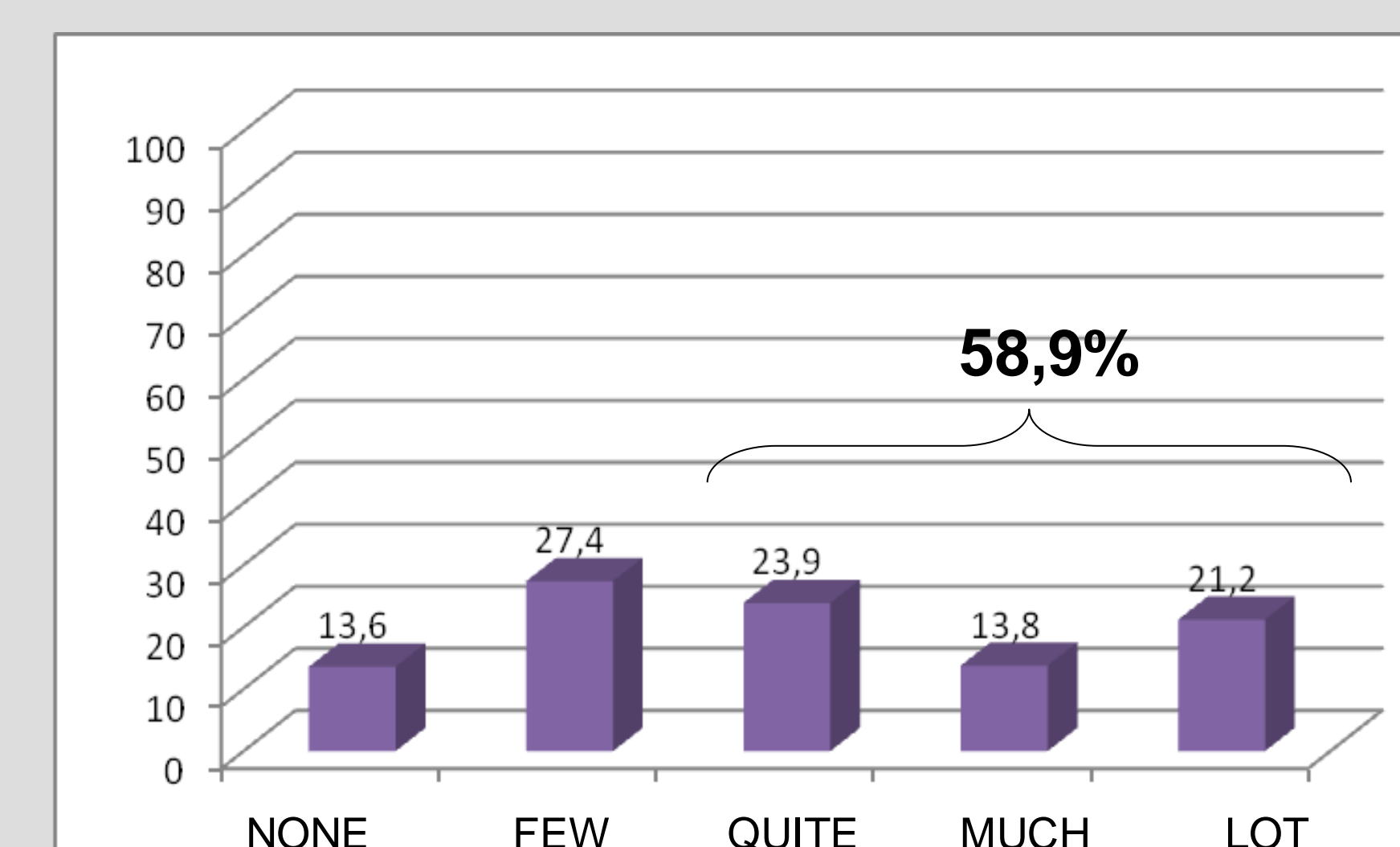
- Degree of perceived lipoatrophy and lipohypertrophy: scale designed *ad hoc* with a Likert-like response format
- Perceived discrimination and self-exclusion behavior (UNAIDS stigma index, 2008)
- Psychological well-being: GHQ 12
- Subjective well-being: PANAS

Data analysis: descriptive analysis and structural equation modeling was performed (LISREL 8.7)

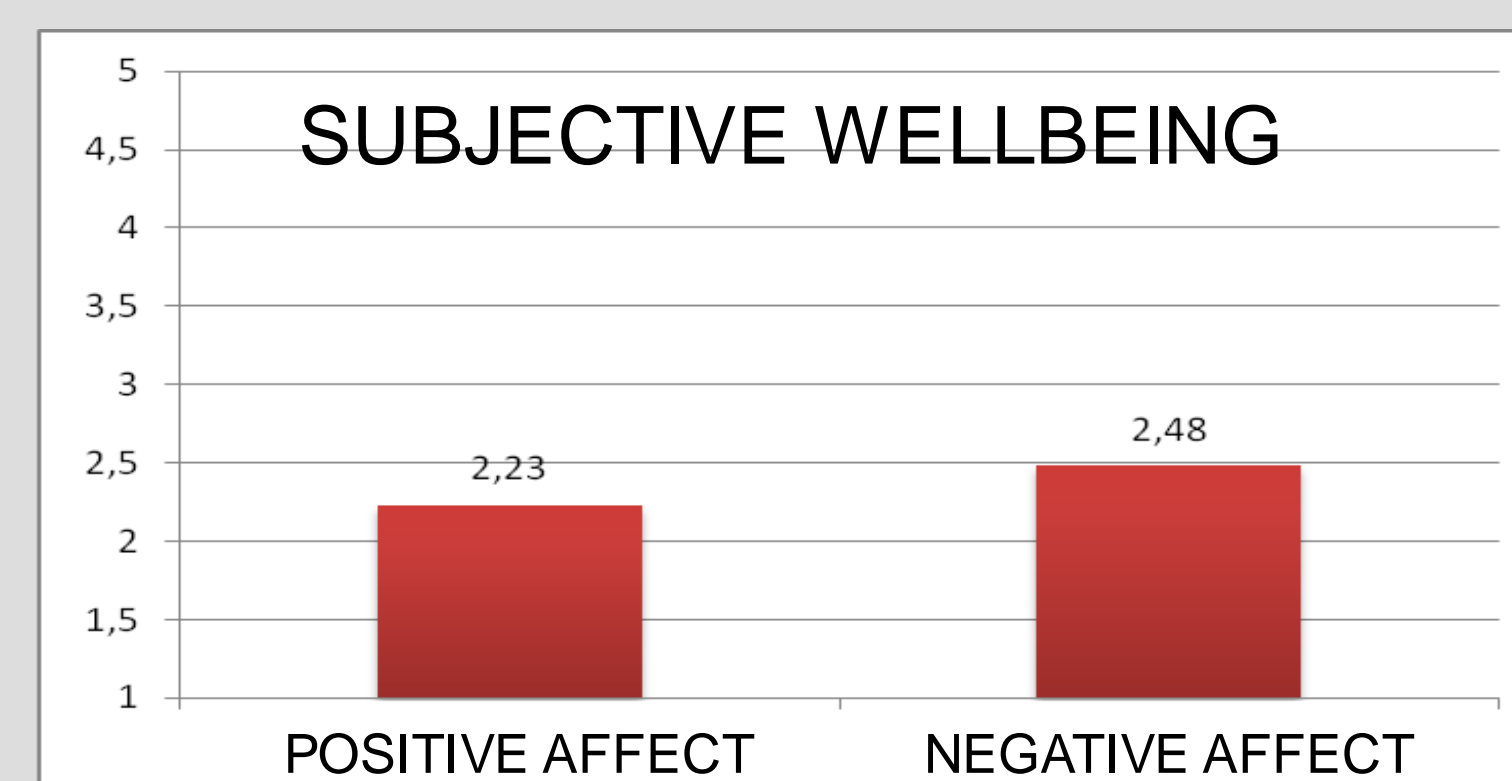
ADHERENCE DIFFICULTIES



FEAR TO DEVELOP LIPODYSTROPHY



Psychological Wellbeing (GHQ 12)
M=16.71 (Higher than general western population (M= 14))



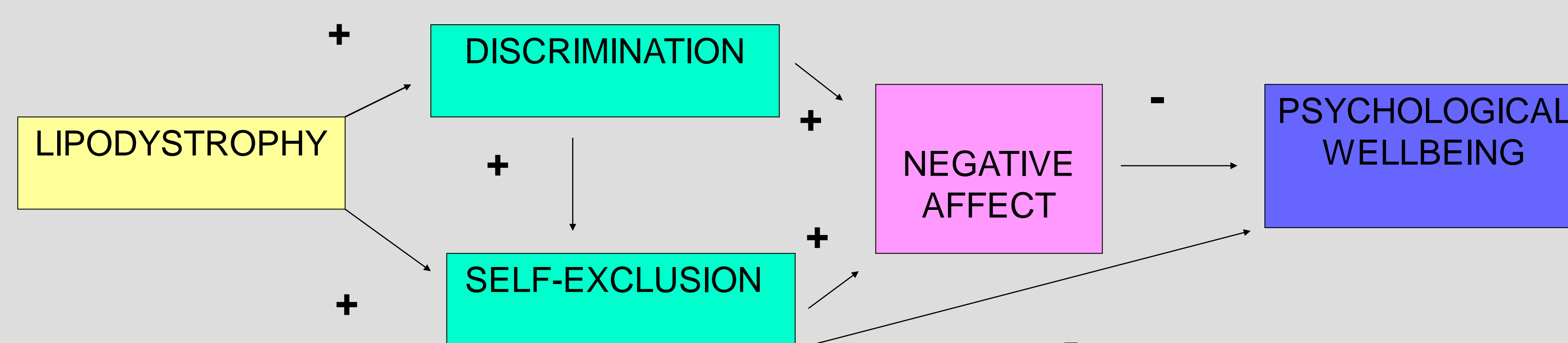
GENDER DIFFERENCES

	Gender	M	SD
Perceived lipoatrophy***	Men	4.45	3.14
	Women	4.97	3.33
Perceived lipohypertrohy ***	Men	3.31	2.78
	Women	4.43	3.23
Adherence difficulties due to lipodystrophy**	Men	3.44	3.07
	Women	4.31	3.29

	Gender	M	SD
Psychological Well-being**	Men	2.66	.60
	Women	2.49	.69
Positive Affect**	Men	2.55	.85
	Women	2.33	.87
Negative Affect**	Men	2.16	.81
	Women	2.35	.89

Signification level: * .05; **.01; ***.001

STRUCTURAL MODEL



GOODNESS OF FIT STATISTICS	
X2 (DF)	13.62 (3)
CFI	1.00
AGFI	.99
RMSEA	.07

Conclusions

- High degree of perception of lipoatrophy (35%) and lipohypertrophy (25%) among HIV people.
- Lipodystrophy is a barrier to treatment adherence.
- A high percentage of people with HIV fear for the future development of lipodystrophy
- With regard to psychological health, mean score suggests a higher occurrence rate of mental illness as compared to a normal population (mean scores in the scale higher than 14 indicate disease)
- As to subjective well-being, negative affectivity predominated over positive affectivity.
- Results of the hypothesized causative model showed lipodystrophy to be related to a greater perceived discrimination and self-exclusion, leading to an increased negative affectivity and a decreased psychological well-being.
- Analysis by gender showed that women perceived more lipohypertrophy and lipoatrophy, suffered stigma to a greater extent, and had poorer psychological health as compared to men
- The study draws significant conclusions regarding the negative impact of lipodystrophy on both experience of stigma and psychological health in people with HIV. Also, the results indicate the need for greater efforts to respond adequately to the problem.