HIV PREVENTION: PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PREP) IMPLEMENTATION

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Why We Did this Study

• Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP):
  • High risk people using a part of an HIV drug cocktail on a daily basis to prevent HIV.

• Truvada®: only FDA approved drug
  • Once daily tablet
  • co-formulated tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg (TDF) and emtricitabine (FTC) 200 mg
  • 44 to 67% effective in clinical trials
    ....If taken perfectly 92% effective

• PrEP uptake may be influenced by patients’ knowledge and perception of PrEP.
What We Did

• **Design**: Prospective cohort study, baseline data

• **Setting**: Thomas Street Health Center in Harris Health System is a publically funded health care system in Houston, TX that traditionally serves HIV positive patients as one of the oldest free standing HIV clinics in the U.S.

• **Cohort**: Patients >18 years of age who present for walk-up point of care HIV testing December 1, 2013 to March 1, 2015.

• **Data Collection**: Paper-based survey which investigated knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about HIV risk, HIV prevention and HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis.
What We Found

- The survey was completed by 205 participants.
- Mean participant age was 39.4 ± 11.6 years.
- Seventy-three participants were female.
- 49.8% were Black non-Hispanic, 25.9% Hispanic, 13.2% White non-Hispanic and 11% other race/ethnicity.
- Almost half (43.8%) worked full or part-time, and 18.8% were homeless or unstably housed.
- Most were uninsured (66.8%), 84% completed high school or more, 17.8% had a household income over $25,000 and 33.2% were single.
What We Found

Predict HIV acquisition during lifetime

- Yes: 131 (64%)
- No: 73 (36%)

Has an HIV positive acquaintance

- Yes: 163 (81%)
- No: 38 (19%)
What We Found

Condom Beliefs and Attitudes

- Although the majority of participants believe condoms reduce HIV risk, regular condom use was relatively low.
- Partner concerns influential.
What We Found

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<th>Table 2. PrEP Interest among 205 persons being tested for HIV infection at Thomas Street Health Center</th>
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<tr>
<td>Interest in taking PrEP despite temporary side effects</td>
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<td>Interest in taking PrEP alongside regular condom use</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest in taking PrEP alongside regular HIV testing</td>
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What Our Results Mean and Why this Matters

- In this young adult, uninsured, minority population presenting for HIV testing in an HIV clinic, partner issues often impeded condom use.
- The majority (64.2%) felt HIV infection inevitable.
- Most participants reported interest in PrEP, despite potential temporary side effects and the need for regular HIV testing.

Comprehensive HIV Prevention Program.
- Established July, 2013 at Thomas Street Health Center.
- Offers PrEP + risk reduction counseling in the form of adherence counseling, condom navigation skills and condoms.
Acknowledgments

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