Why We Did this Study

US annual incidence of invasive anal cancer

- Men and women overall: 1.5 cases per 100,000
- MSM: 35 cases per 100,000
- MSM with HIV: 80 cases per 100,000

Joseph et al., 2008; Cress et al., 2003; Frisch, 2003; Daling et al., 1982; Chin-Hong et al., 2002
What We Did

Since most anal cancers in men have a tumor that can be felt with a finger……

We recruited 200 MSM (61% HIV+), both singles and couples.

After a nurse practitioner examined the men’s anal canal, the men inserted their finger into their own anal canal (or their partner’s anal canal) for anything that felt abnormal.
The NP found 12 abnormalities and the men found 9 of these.

96% of the men said checking their partner’s or their own anal canal for something abnormal was acceptable.

About one-half of men said they would prefer to exam themselves or their partner rather than get a digital ano-rectal exam from a doctor.
What Our Results Mean and Why this Matters

- Self- and partner anal exams may be feasible given that the men found it acceptable and were able to feel abnormalities greater than 1/8”.

- 200 MSM largely had the same findings as a nurse after the self or partner exam; however, the number of abnormalities was low.

- There are few available options for other anal cancer screening.
Acknowledgments

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