

Changes in sexual behavior and STI diagnoses among MSM using PrEP in Seattle, WA

Michalina A Montaño¹, Julia C Dombrowski^{1,2,3}, Lindley A Barbee^{2,3}, Matthew R Golden^{2,3}, Christine M Khosropour¹

Departments of ¹Epidemiology and ²Medicine at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA and ³Public Health – Seattle & King County, Seattle, WA, USA



BACKGROUND

- PrEP is increasingly used for HIV prevention among MSM.
- In non-research settings, changes in sexual behavior and STI incidence among MSM after PrEP initiation have not been well studied.

Objective: To examine changes in sexual behavior and STI incidence among MSM after PrEP initiation

METHODS

STUDY POPULATION

- The municipal STD clinic in Seattle, WA provides PrEP to patients at high risk for HIV (patients who meet one of the following criteria):
 - Sexual relationship with HIV+ partner who is not on ART, or not virally suppressed, or within 6 months of ART initiation
 - MSM or transgender person who has sex with men and has diagnosis of rectal GC or early syphilis, or methamphetamine or popper use, or sex work, in last 12 months
- PrEP patients attend an initial evaluation (baseline) visit, and return quarterly for clinical follow-up and monitoring.
- MSM attending the clinic, who initiated PrEP and completed behavioral questionnaires, are included in this analysis.

DATA COLLECTION

- Data were collected from patients initiating PrEP between September 2014 and June 2016.
- Data on sexual behavior during prior 30 days were collected during quarterly PrEP clinic visits, via computer-assisted self interview (CASI).
- STI diagnosis data were obtained from the Washington State Public Health Issue Management System (PHIMS).

Outcomes:

- STI diagnoses: chlamydia (CT), gonorrhea (GC), early syphilis
- Number male sexual partners
- Sexual positioning (top/bottom) and condom use with HIV+, HIV-, unknown-status partners

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Contact: Michalina Montaño at micham@u.w.edu

DATA ANALYSIS

- We calculated the proportion of MSM reporting each behavior at each visit, using linear regression to assess statistical significance of linear trends.
- We calculated incidence of CT, GC, and early syphilis, and compared with King County STI incidence data for the HIV-negative MSM population (we assume 5.7% of the adult male population of King County are MSM).
- To account for ascertainment bias resulting from increased detection due to increased screening, we separately examined symptomatic STIs (urethral gonorrhea, 1^o, 2^o syphilis).

RESULTS

Participant Characteristics At Baseline (N=218)

	Mean	SD
Age	30.6	8.7
Race/Ethnicity	n	%
Hispanic	48	22.0
White, Non-Hispanic	116	53.2
Black, Non-Hispanic	17	7.8
Asian/Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic	22	10.1
Native American, Non-Hispanic	4	1.8
Unknown	11	5.1

- 218 MSM began PrEP during September 2014 – June 2016, and completed the baseline behavioral questionnaire.
- 108* completed at least one follow-up visit (Mean follow-up time: 8.3 mos. SD: 4.9 mos.)
- 76 completed both the baseline and the 3-month visits.

* Includes patients who had visits between baseline and 3 months, or who skipped their 3-month visit

SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

Reported Sexual Behaviors Over Time

Behavior	Baseline (Pre-PrEP) N=76	3-Month Visit N=76	6-Month Visit N=58	9-Month Visit N=41	p-Value (Linear Trend)
# Male Sex Partners	Mean (SD) 4.2 (4.1)	Mean (SD) 4.3 (7.5)	Mean (SD) 3.6 (3.8)	Mean (SD) 5.0 (4.3)	0.6
% Reporting Anal Sex, by Partner Type	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	
Any HIV+ Partners	18 (29.5)	16 (24.4)	14 (28.6)	11 (30.6)	0.6
Any HIV- Partners	54 (88.2)	60 (90.9)	43 (87.8)	30 (83.3)	0.3
Any Unknown Status Partners	23 (37.7)	16 (24.2)	7 (14.3)	14 (38.9)	0.9
% Reporting Never Using Condoms during Anal Sex					
Overall	6 (10.3)	10 (15.6)	9 (18.8)	8 (24.2)	0.005
Receptive, with HIV+ Partner	2 (20.0)	3 (30.0)	4 (36.4)	4 (50.0)	0.01
Receptive, with HIV- Partner	4 (9.3)	6 (13.3)	6 (18.8)	8 (32.0)	0.04
Receptive, with Unknown Status Partner	0 (0.0)	3 (27.3)	0 (0.0)	1 (14.3)	0.8
Insertive, with HIV+ Partner	2 (15.4)	5 (38.5)	5 (38.5)	5 (62.5)	0.05
Insertive, with HIV- Partner	6 (14.3)	8 (17.4)	7 (22.6)	10 (43.5)	0.09
Insertive, with Unknown Status Partner	1 (6.3)	3 (23.1)	1 (20.0)	3 (33.3)	0.1

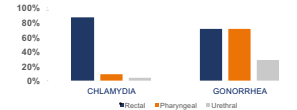
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

Proportion of MSM Diagnosed with STIs before and after PrEP Initiation						
N=108						
All STIs	12 Months Prior to PrEP Initiation		At Baseline (+/- 7 days)		During PrEP Use	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Chlamydia	7	6.5	18	16.7	24	22.2
Gonorrhea	11	10.2	22	20.4	21	19.4
Syphilis (1 ^o , 2 ^o , Early Latent)	11	10.2	13	12.0	7	6.5
Rectal						
Rectal Chlamydia	5	4.6	16	14.8	21	19.4
Rectal Gonorrhea	10	9.3	15	13.9	15	13.9
Symptomatic STIs						
Urethral Gonorrhea	2	1.9	1	0.9	6	5.6
Syphilis (1 ^o , 2 ^o)	10	9.3	8	7.4	4	3.7

STI Incidence per 1000 Person-Years

	King County HIV- MSM	PrEP Pts.
Overall		
Chlamydia	22.6	539.3
Gonorrhea	20.7	462.6
Syphilis (1 ^o , 2 ^o , Early Latent)	4.5	97.4
Rectal		
Rectal Chlamydia	14.8	454.1
Rectal Gonorrhea	8.8	260.2
Symptomatic		
Urethral Gonorrhea	6.9	101.2
Syphilis (1 ^o , 2 ^o)	3.1	55.7

Proportion of Diagnosed STIs at each Anatomic Site, Among PrEP Patients after PrEP Initiation



* Because STIs may be diagnosed at more than one site, percentages above may add to more than 100%

DISCUSSION

SUMMARY

- MSM reported decreased condom use during receptive anal intercourse with HIV-seropositive partners in the first year after initiating PrEP.
- Incidence of symptomatic STIs was higher among PrEP patients.

LIMITATIONS

- Lack of an appropriate comparison group may lead to difficulty drawing conclusions about increased STI risk.
- Ascertainment bias may result from increased screening in the period after PrEP initiation, although not for symptomatic STIs.

CONCLUSIONS

- Some sexual behaviors appear to change following PrEP initiation, which in turn may influence STI acquisition.