Early Adopters: Implementation of Doxycycline Post-Exposure Prophylaxis in a Boston Health Center

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BACKGROUND

- The use of 200 mg of doxycycline within 72 hours after condomless sex ("doxyPEP") has been shown to decrease the incidence of bacterial sexually transmitted infections (bSTI) in 2 randomized trials that enrolled cisgender men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women.
- However, limited data are available to inform the implementation of this novel STI prevention intervention in primary care settings.
- This report describes the doxyPEP roll-out in a Boston health center that specializes in primary care for sexual and gender minorities.
- Fenway Health cares for >2000 PHIV, and has close to 3500 current PrEP users.

METHODS

- Data from the clinic's electronic medical records were abstracted.
- Among all patients screened for a bSTI in 2023, bivariate logistic regression was used to compare characteristics of those receiving doxyPEP and those not receiving doxyPEP.
- DoxyPEP uptake (proportion receiving doxyPEP in 2023) among those with an active PrEP prescription in 2022-2023, PLHIV, and those tested for, and those diagnosed with, a bSTI in 2022 were also calculated.

Despite the rapid uptake of doxyPEP, most patients recently diagnosed with an STI had not received a doxyPEP prescription, suggesting the need for further provider and patient education

Increased uptake of doxyPEP among patients with private insurance compared to those with public insurance highlights the need for programs to facilitate doxyPEP access in an equitable manner.

Differences between DoxyPEP users and non-users among all male patients screened for a bacterial STI (N=4,976)

Variable	DoxyPEP Users	DoxyPEP Non-Users	O.R.	95% C.I.
PrEP Users	73.8%	39.9%	4.25	3.67-4.93
Private Insurance	85.4%	71.3%	2.37	1.96-2.81
Diagnosed with bSTI in 2022	31.3%	15.0%	1.67	1.42-1.98
PLHIV	8.6%	18.1%	0.42	0.34-0.53

DoxyPEP uptake was

- 24.1% (827/3427) among patients with an active PrEP prescription
- 4.8% (96/2012) among PLHIV
- 13.7% (900/6568) among those screened for a bSTI in 2022
- 24.7% (350/1416) among those diagnosed with a bSTI in 2022

RESULTS

- Between January 26 and September 6, 2023, 1120 patients received a doxyPEP prescription.
- By March, monthly doxyPEP starts exceeded 100, with >250 patients initiating doxyPEP in June 2023.
- Most doxyPEP patients were White (73.3%), non-Latinx (81.7%), and cisgender MSM (92.2%), with a mean age of 39.1 years.
- DoxyPEP users did not differ from non-users by age, race or ethnicity.

CONCLUSIONS

- Over 1,000 patients initiated doxyPEP in less than 6 months at a Boston health center.
- PrEP users were more likely to initiate doxyPEP than PLHIV
- Despite the rapid uptake of doxyPEP, most patients recently diagnosed with an STI had not received a doxyPEP prescription, suggesting the need for further provider and patient education
- Increased uptake of doxyPEP among patients with private insurance compared to those with public insurance highlights the need for programs to facilitate doxyPEP access in an equitable manner.

ADDITIONAL KEY INFORMATION

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