Acceptability of Doxycycline as Post-Exposure Prophylaxis in Southeastern Louisiana

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BACKGROUND

- Louisiana ranks first in the nation for chlamydia incidence and third for gonorrhea, necessitating effective prevention strategies for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- Doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis (doxy PEP) is a promising prevention approach, but its success relies on acceptability among providers and clients.
- It is important to understand acceptability of doxy PEP among persons assigned female at birth (AFAB), who stand to gain substantial benefit from doxy PEP, even though clinical efficacy has not yet been demonstrated.

METHODS

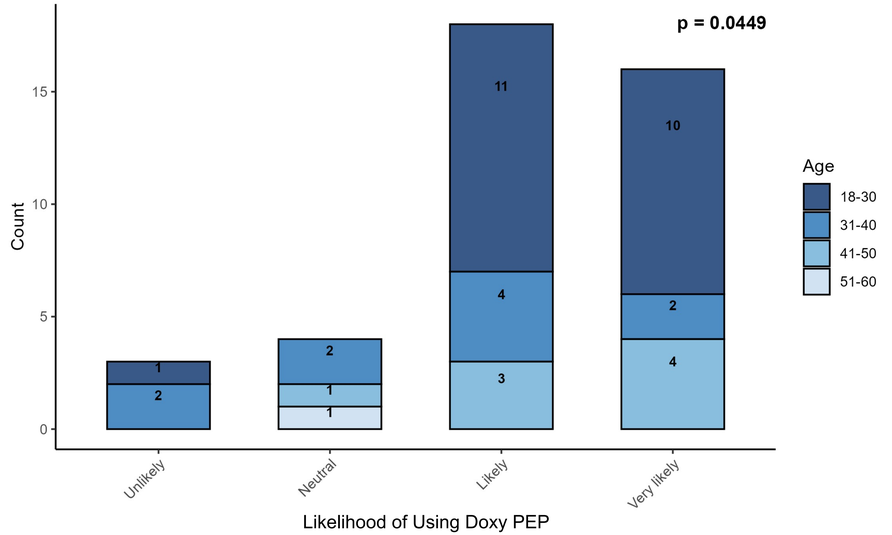
- A survey was administered to healthcare providers across various specialties and AFAB clients (with multiple partners/recent STI) in Southeastern LA.
- The provider survey assessed familiarity with doxy PEP guidelines, prescribing habits, and desire for increased education.
- The client survey assessed sexual behaviors and awareness and acceptability of doxy PEP.

RESULTS

- There were 177 total respondents (136 providers, 41 clients)
- More than half of providers (52.2%, 71/136) were familiar with doxy PEP guidelines.
- Only 25.0% (34/136) had prescribed doxy PEP, and 67.6% (23/34) of those had prescribed it fewer than 5 times in the past 6 months.
- Infectious diseases providers were more likely to have prescribed doxy PEP than other providers (41.2% vs 19.6%, p=0.01).
- Six (4.4%) providers had prescribed doxy PEP to AFAB individuals.
- Of those who had not prescribed doxy PEP, 81.4% (83/102) believed there was enough evidence to prescribe it going forward. 72.8% would like training.

Age	Providers n=136 (%)	Clients AFAB n=41 (%)
18-30	42 (30.8%)	21 (51.2%)
31-40	49 (36.2%)	11 (26.8%)
>40	45 (33.0%)	9 (21.9%)
Gender		
Cisgender Woman	78 (57.4)	31 (75.6%)
Cisgender Man	54 (39.7%)	N/A
Transgender Man	2 (1.5%)	2 (4.8%)
Transgender Woman	1 (0.7%)	N/A
Non-binary	0	7 (17.0%)
Ethnicity		
Hispanic/Latinx	3 (2.2%)	5 (12.2%)
Race (could choose >1)		
Asian	25 (18.4%)	0
Black/African American	10 (7.4%)	26 (63.4%)
White	99 (72.8%)	14 (34.1%)
Other	4 (2.9%)	3 (7.3%)
Sexual Orientation		
Heterosexual/Straight	N/A	11 (26.8%)
Gay/Lesbian	N/A	25 (60.9%)
Bisexual/Pansexual/Queer	N/A	5 (12.2%)





RESULTS, cont.

- Among AFAB clients, 73.2% (30/41) identified as LGBTQ+, 9.7% (4/41) reported >5 partners in the past 6 months, 39.0% (16) reported having sex more than once per week, 29.2% (12/41) had prior knowledge of doxy PEP, and 29.2% (12/41) reported never using condom.
- Responses on likelihood of using doxycycline to prevent STIs (“if available and suggested by your provider”) were 36.6% (15/41) “very likely,” 41.5% (17/41) “likely,” and only 7.3% (3/41) “unlikely.”

CONCLUSIONS

- Doxy PEP prescribing is not widespread in Southeastern LA. Although there is willingness to prescribe among providers, educational initiatives are needed.
- Additionally, AFAB clients demonstrated some awareness and strong acceptability of doxy PEP.
- Although our client sample was small, these are among the first data on doxy PEP acceptability in AFAB persons in the US and are encouraging for feasibility of future trials.

REFERENCES

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