

Concerns and opinions of people currently or previously on oral and long-acting injectable forms of HIV preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP)



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INTRODUCTION

- Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is an effective and important tool to prevent HIV infection [1]
- PrEP is available in **two modalities**: a daily **oral** form and a relatively new **long-acting injectable** (LAI)
- Previous studies showed **high interest in LAI PrEP** among current and former PrEP users [2,3]
- Most of this research was conducted before the FDA approval of LAI PrEP and did not include patients who were currently using LAI or who have stayed on oral PrEP after its approval
- The purpose of this study was to **explore opinions and differences in perceived HIV risk, PrEP stigma, and barriers to access PrEP** among patients who are currently taking oral or LAI PrEP or who have taken or been prescribed PrEP in the past

METHOD

- **Study Design:** A cross-sectional survey of clients at an urban PrEP clinic in the US South
- **Subjects:** Eligible participants were 18+ and had previously taken or been prescribed oral or LAI PrEP
- **Data Collection:** Participants were asked about their preferences about oral and LAI PrEP, barriers they have faced in accessing PrEP, perceived HIV risk, and PrEP stigma
- **Data analysis:** Descriptive statistics were used to analyze barriers to PrEP, PrEP stigma, and demographics. A logistic regression analysis was conducted to examine the relationship of perceived HIV risk with preferred PrEP modality

DISCUSSION

Despite clear desire for LAI PrEP, patients are frequently not offered LAI and awareness is low. Common concerns about PrEP include side effects and cost of medication and/or clinic visits. These data demonstrate the importance of improving LAI PrEP accessibility and offering choice between PrEP methods.

REFERENCES

1. Baeten, J.M., et al., Antiretroviral prophylaxis for HIV prevention in heterosexual men and women. *N Engl J Med*, 2012. 367(5): p. 399-410.
2. Lorenzetti, L., et al., Systematic review of the values and preferences regarding the use of injectable pre-exposure prophylaxis to prevent HIV acquisition. *J Int AIDS Soc*, 2023. 26 Suppl 2(Suppl 2): p. e26107.
3. King, A.R., et al., Acceptability of injectable pre-exposure prophylaxis among people who inject drugs in three urban U.S. settings. *BMC Infect Dis*, 2022. 22(1): p. 737.

RESULTS

- 22 participants were using LAI PrEP, 80 oral PrEP, and 21 were not currently on PrEP
- Participants were 87.8% men, 54.5% White, 30.9% Black, and 14.6% Latinx, mean age was 38.6 (range 19-78)
- Most participants (56.0%) preferred injection versus daily pill
- Of people taking oral PrEP, 56.3% had not switched to injectable either because it was not offered to them, or they were not aware of it
- On average participants had low to moderate PrEP stigma scores, but Perceived HIV Risk Scores were higher for people not currently taking PrEP.
- Participants on oral PrEP for 1+ years 82% less likely to prefer injectable PrEP (OR 0.18, CI 0.05-0.61, p=0.008) and partnered participants (as opposed to single) were nearly three times more likely to prefer injectable (OR 2.98, CI 1.04-9.12, p=0.047)

Figure 1. General concerns about PrEP amongst patients on LAI or Oral or Not Currently on PrEP.

