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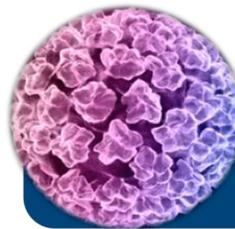
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Partners:



Introduction

Many studies have been exploring interactions of Human papillomaviruses (HPV) among MSM and transgender populations from the Dominican Republic. 1,2,3,4 These studies have reported persistently high prevalence of HPV high risk and low risk genotypes. 2 Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is a new preventive strategy to reduce HIV infection that has been evaluated throughout many countries, and more recently in the DR. As part of this intervention we integrated a comprehensive service to increase persistence in care, including: psychological support, anal health, hormonal and drug abuse counseling, and male health. The aim of this study was to evaluate the acceptability of anal smears for cythological evaluation, and persistence in PrEP during an implementation pilot.



Results

PrEP services were provided to a total of 149 MSM and transwomen. Pap smear was offered at the third visit to the center together with counseling and education about the importance of HPV early detection. Persistence in care was 93.1% after 120 days of PrEP start. Anal pap smears acceptability was 63.8% [Table 1]. Of those 6.3% were positive for HPV-related cythological modifications, and 66.7% were diagnosed with LSIL.

Conclusions

PrEP scaling-up among key populations requires innovation, and integrated services. More efforts are needed to increase awareness of HPV-related malignancies among most-at-risk populations, and early screening should be offered as a package of care not only to people living with HIV, but their partners, and transwomen.

PrEP

Methods

Anal pap smears were offered to all PrEP users during follow-up visits to a primary care unit in Santo Domingo, DR. Smears were collected and placed in liquid-cytology medium (ThinPrep®) for microscopic evaluation. All results were classified using Bethesda method from ASCUS, to low and high squamous intraepithelial lesion (LSIL-HSIL), or carcinoma in situ. Laboratory results were discussed with users, and educational materials developed to increase awareness of HPV infection in males and transwomen. Persistence rates were assessed before and after services were provided.

Table 1: Description of anal pap smears done on a cohort of patients enrolled in a PrEP pilot study.

	Anal Pap Smears	
	n	%
Anal Pap Smear Acceptability:		
Total Anal Pap Smears Offered	149	100
Pap Smears Realized	95	63.76%
Pap Smears Results:		
Negative Evidence for HPV	86	90.5%
Positive Evidence for HPV	6	6.3%
Description of Positive Anal Pap Results:		
LSIL	4	66.7%
ASC-US	2	33.3%

References

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PrEP

