



Not eligible but still risky: Understanding the reasons PrEPX participants were enrolled at clinicians' discretion

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Background

- 2015 Australian PrEP guidelines for MSM included the following criteria :
 - reporting high risk sexual activity in last 3 months;
 - a diagnosis of rectal chlamydia/gonorrhoea and/or syphilis in the last 3 months
 - along with indicating a likelihood of sustained risk in the next 3 months
- The PrEPX study in Victoria began recruiting in July 2016 using:
 - the criteria above,
 - **and clinicians discretion to enroll participants not meeting these criteria**
- We sought to explore the reasons for enrolment and measure risk among participants enrolled at discretion.



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Aim & Methods

- Using enrolment data, we identified participants enrolled through clinicians' discretion between July 2016 and January 2017, and conducted a thematic analysis on reasons provided by clinicians for discretionary enrolment;
- To identify further markers of risk, we used:
 - Data from PrEPX sites participating in ACCESS, to measure STI positivity among this group at enrolment;
 - Self-reported behavioural survey data from ACCESS to identify men meeting STIGMA definition of high-risk (Reporting any condomless anal intercourse with casual partners, >10 partners, group sex, recreational drug use in previous six months)



Results

- Between July 2016 and January 2017, 2498 participants were enrolled:
 - 797 (31.9%) were enrolled at clinician discretion
 - 134 (16.8%) were already on PrEP
- Most common themes identified by clinicians for discretionary enrolment were:


Reason	n (%)
Added protection of PrEP	311 (39%)
A history of sexual risk beyond 3-month recall period	237 (30%)
Psychological or emotional benefit (e.g. HIV related anxiety)	140 (18%)
Participant perceives/expects future HIV risk	66 (8.7%)




Results

	n (%)	
	Enrolled at discretion	Met eligibility criteria
Diagnosed with rectal CT/NG, or syphilis at enrolment	63 (9.2)	221 (15.1)
Met STIGMA definition of high-risk* in ACCESS surveys	324 (62.8)	1006 (82.4)

- Of 1737 enrolled at ACCESS sites with behavioural and testing data available only **96 (5.5%) had no markers of risk**. This reflects **18.6% of those enrolled at discretion at these clinics**.



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Conclusions

- These data highlight the diverse reasons participants sought to participate in PrEPX; from peace of mind to minimising HIV related anxiety
- While nearly a third of study participants were enrolled at discretion, STI positivity was still high among this group;
- Identification of additional high risk behaviour in self-completed behavioural surveys could suggest:
 - An under-reporting of risk to clinicians; and/or
 - That the three month history is insufficient for participants' overall interpretation of their typical risk profile
- Findings support the revised 2017 version of the ASHM PrEP guidelines that include discretionary prescribing.



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