

DOXYCYCLINE PROPHYLAXIS FOR SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION PREVENTION IN VIETNAM: AWARENESS, ATTITUDES, AND WILLINGNESS TO USE AMONG MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN USING HIV PrEP

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Background:

While doxycycline prophylaxis is a promising tool for the prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), data from low- and middle-income countries are very sparse. We assessed awareness of and willingness to use doxycycline pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis (doxyPrEP/PEP) for STI prevention among men who have sex with men (MSM) using HIV PrEP in Vietnam.

Methods:

From January 29- February 4, 2024, males, aged ≥ 18 years, reporting sex with men in the prior 12 months were recruited from 11 PrEP clinics in Hanoi and Hochiminh Cities. Data were collected using self-administered surveys. Factors associated with willingness to use doxyPrEP/PEP were assessed using multivariable logistic regression models.

Results:

Among 350 participants (45.7% Hanoi, 54.3% Hochiminh), median age was 25 years (interquartile range [IQR]: 21-30). In the previous 6 months, median number of sex partners was 2 (IQR: 1-4) and 53.1% reported condomless anal sex. There were 20.2% (65/322) who heard of doxyPrEP/PEP before the survey. In total, 75.4% (264/350) reported they would use doxyPrEP/PEP if recommended, and among those, 63.6% (168/264) would prefer PrEP. Participants who reported lifetime alcohol use (adjusted odds ratio [aOR]= 2.8; 95% confidence interval [95%CI] 1.5-5.4), current popper use during sex (aOR= 2.0; 95% CI 1.1-4.0) and increased score of perceived STI risk (aOR= 1.1; 95% CI 1.0-1.2) were more willing to use doxyPrEP/PEP. Willingness to use was not different among participants in Hanoi compared to Hochiminh.

Conclusions:

We found low prior knowledge of doxyPrEP/PEP among MSM on HIV PrEP in Vietnam, and yet willingness to use was high. Our findings suggest directions for doxyPrEP/PEP implementation in Vietnam, including wider dissemination of doxycycline prophylaxis for STI prevention in target populations, providing both PrEP/PEP options, and screening

associated factors for enrollment of MSM willing to initiate doxyPrEP/PEP to ensure high uptake.

Disclose of Interest Statement:

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