

ARE HIV-NEGATIVE GAY MEN WHO TAKE PREP MORE LIKELY TO HAVE SEX WITH HIV-POSITIVE MEN?

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Background: HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) may change HIV-negative gay men's concerns about sex with HIV-positive men.

Methods: In late 2016, 433 HIV-negative men completed an online survey of HIV status disclosure. We explored the relationship between use of PrEP and the HIV status of sexual partners.

Results: Mean age was 36. 77 HIV-negative men (17.8%) reported currently taking PrEP. 88.5% of men on PrEP and 27.8% of those not on PrEP reported condomless anal intercourse with casual partners (CLAIC) in the previous six months ($p < 0.001$).

Whereas 49.3% indicated they would avoid sex with HIV-positive men, this decreased to 37.3% if an HIV-positive man had undetectable viral load (UVL; McNemar < 0.001). 53.0% of men not on PrEP and 33.3% of PrEP users avoided sex with HIV-positive men ($p = 0.013$).

Among men on PrEP, whereas 66.7% would consider sex with HIV-positive men, this increased to 84.3% when considering sex with HIV-positive men with UVL (McNemar = 0.012). Also, 25.5% of men on PrEP indicated they would consider engaging in receptive CLAIC with an HIV-positive man but this increased to 45.1% if he had UVL (McNemar = 0.006).

On their last occasion of casual sex, few (5.6%) reported knowingly having sex with HIV-positive men, regardless of their own PrEP use, but men on PrEP were less likely to ask about HIV status than were those not on PrEP (30.9% vs 48.4%; $p = 0.027$).

Conclusion: HIV-negative men often sought to avoid sex with HIV-positive men, but were less likely to do so if an HIV-positive man had UVL. Men on PrEP were more likely to contemplate sex with HIV-positive men, particularly if they had UVL. Nonetheless, in practice, they were no more likely to report sex with known HIV-positive men, although they were less likely to ask. PrEP appears to reduce men's interest in restricting sex practices considered risky without PrEP.

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