

## Attitudes towards 'treatment as prevention' among PrEP-experienced gay and bisexual men in Australia

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**Background:** HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) has transformed 'safe sex' practices and has the potential to change the attitudes PrEP-experienced gay and bisexual men (GBM) have towards HIV treatment as prevention (TasP). We explored attitudes towards TasP among PrEP-experienced GBM.

**Methods:** Previous PrEP demonstration trial participations in NSW completed an online survey between August 2018-March 2020. Participants were asked whether they were willing to have condomless anal intercourse (CLAI) with an HIV-positive sexual partner with an undetectable viral load (UVL); differences between those willing and unwilling were explored using multiple logistic regression.

**Results:** Of 1,386 PrEP-experienced GBM, 79.0% believed in the effectiveness of TasP, and 55.3% were willing to have CLAI in the context of UVL. Willingness was positively associated with believing in the effectiveness of TasP (aOR=7.60; 95% CI=5.36-10.76), preference for CLAI (over anal intercourse with a condom) (aOR=3.55; 95% CI=2.51-5.02), being older (aOR=1.01; 95% CI=1.00-1.03), being born in Australia (aOR=1.39; 95% CI=1.07-1.81), having >10 sexual partners in the past six months (aOR=1.56; 95% CI=1.17-2.08), and crystal methamphetamine use in the past six months (aOR=2.41, 95% CI=1.55-3.75). GBM willing to have CLAI in the context of UVL were less likely to worry about getting HIV when taking PrEP (aOR=0.73; 95% CI=0.53-0.99), be concerned about getting STIs (aOR=0.57; 95% CI=0.42-0.77), or to try to avoid getting STIs (aOR=0.75; 95% CI=0.57-1.00).

**Conclusion:** Most PrEP-experienced GBM believed in the effectiveness of TasP, but only a little over half were willing to have CLAI with an HIV-positive partner with UVL. Those who were willing were more likely to believe in the effectiveness of TasP, and less likely to worry about getting HIV when taking PrEP. Further work is needed to understand the role of HIV stigma in these beliefs, and understand the gap between general belief in TasP and willingness to use it.

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:** The Kirby Institute and Centre for Social Research in Health are funded by the Australian Government Department of Health. The PrEP in NSW Transition Study was supported by funds from the NSW Ministry of Health. No pharmaceutical grants were received for this study.