

Clinical Landscape of Sexually Transmitted Infections among PrEP Users: Insights from a District Hospital

Clara Bacelar, Fábio Reis, Eduarda Pena, Sara Araújo, Clara Batista, Ricardo Correia Abreu, Frederico Duarte



Infectious Diseases Department | Unidade Local de Saúde de Matosinhos, Portugal

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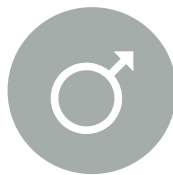
Background: PrEP effectively prevents HIV transmission; however, these populations are at risk and have a higher prevalence of other STIs. This study aims to elucidate the clinical landscape of STIs among PrEP users in our local setting, a district hospital, also serving patients from centralized units where the waiting times for PrEP can exceed 6 months.

Methods: Retrospective study of PrEP users with a minimum 3-month follow-up in 2023. Data was collected from clinical records, prescriptions, and laboratory results. Microbiological swabs were primarily obtained when symptoms were present.

Results



PrEP users



97.1%
cis-male



Median age
[21-65]



65.7% from Portugal
23.8% from Brazil

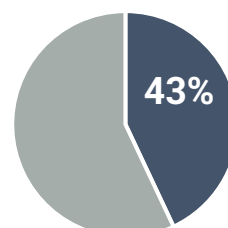
Before PrEP

- 39% with positive *T. pallidum* IgG
 - 44.8% with other bacterial STIs
- Gonococcal urethritis (n=25) | Non-gonococcal urethritis (n=17) | Non-specific urethritis (n=11)
Proctitis (n=2) | Chlamydial conjunctivitis (n=2)
Gonococcal arthritis (n=1)
- Viral STIs: Mpox (n=2) | HPV (n=5) | HSV (n=1)

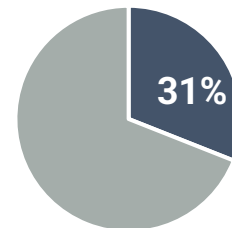
During PrEP

- *T. pallidum* 12-month reinfection rate of 38.1%
 - 7.1% new infections with *T. pallidum*
 - 15% with other bacterial STIs
 - median time of follow-up of 10 months until the event
- Gonococcal urethritis (n=6) | Non-gonococcal urethritis (n=8) | Proctitis (n=4) | Gonococcal tonsillitis (n=2)
- Viral STIs: Mpox (n=1) | Hepatitis C (n=1)

Vaccination was recommended at all visits.
No HIV infections were reported during the follow-up.



Mpox vaccination rate



HPV vaccination rate

Conclusion: This population exhibited significant sexual risk with high STIs prevalence before PrEP. Syphilis and gonococcal infections were particularly notable among those with prior history. Patient education, regular monitoring, and proactive vaccination (often challenged by high-cost regimens) likely contributed to reduce incidence. Ongoing vigilance and targeted interventions are crucial to improve outcomes and mitigate STIs impact among PrEP users.