

First results after 52 weeks of informalPrEP use in a cohort of MSM in Southern Spain

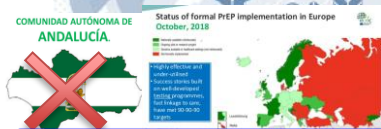
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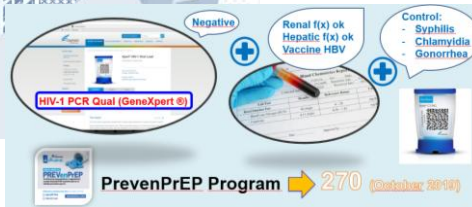
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INTRODUCTION & METHODS

Southern Spain has similar HIV incidences than Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Despite this, PrEP use is blocked. In this context, some MSM in Spain are using informal PrEP without medical follow up. For this reason, Sevilla Checkpoint has started a new program – PrevenPrEP- to offer information, counselling and follow up to this MSM cohort.



ANDALUCIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT WITHOUT STRATEGY



RESULTS

A total of 167 MSM were included in the program; 152 of them use daily PrEP and 15 event-driven. The user type was similar to those shown by previous studies; 85% of users showed previous HIV tests, with an average of 9 times per user. Regarding anal sex, 78,4% never used condoms during sexual intercourse with an average of 32 different sexual partners in the last 6 months. 65% of them referred insertive anal practices. Moreover, 15,6% of them were ChemSex users. Finally, regarding HIV, no infection was detected in this cohort. A total of 130 PrEP users from the PrevenPrEP program have been tested after the first 6 months (78%). 1,2 % of them were reactive to Syphilis, 6,6% to Chlamydia and 5,4% to Gonorrhea.

CONCLUSION

These results show that there is a cohort of MSM in Seville who are interested in PrEP and whose sexual practices justify the use of it to protect themselves of HIV infections. As we expected, there was not any new HIV infections in this cohort. The % of STIs diagnosed was approx. 50% lower than those people tested in our Community Center who are not using PrEP, showing the importance of STIs monitoring to prevent new infections. The community centers as Sevilla Checkpoint have the capacity to offer professional advice and monitoring services to informal PrEP users and prove to be strong candidates to offer these services when PrEP will be implemented by the Spanish Government.