**PrEP use in Portugal while waiting for a policy**

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**BACKGROUND**

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) with tenofovir/emtricitabine (TDF/FTC) has shown to be effective in preventing HIV among high-risk HIV-negative men who have sex with men (MSM). These results pressure countries to make PrEP available and few are already dispensing TDF/FTC as PrEP, Portugal is not one of those.

**AIM**

We aimed to assess the frequency of PrEP use and its determinants in an HIV-negative MSM cohort.

**METHODS**

We performed a case-cohort analysis using data from the Lisbon Cohort of MSM – an open prospective cohort of adult HIV-negative MSM. We found that 28 (0.7%) MSM reported to have used PrEP, out of the 4243 MSM enrolled in the cohort as of April 2016, and we randomly selected 112 controls. Comparisons between cases and controls were performed using the Chi-square test.

**RESULTS**

PrEP users had a significantly higher median number of visits in the cohort (3 vs 1, \( p < 0.001 \)), were more frequently born in other country than Portugal (39.1% vs 17.0%, \( p = 0.025 \)) and reported more frequently to know and to have used post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) at baseline (34.6% vs 52.3% did not know about PEP and 11.5% vs 0.9% used PEP, \( p = 0.014 \)). Groups were similar in terms of age, education, condom use with an occasional partner and with an HIV-positive steady partner and a STI diagnosis in the previous 12 months to baseline.

**CONCLUSION**

Despite not being approved for prevention there are some MSM already using TDF/FTC in Portugal. Even though the number of PrEP users is small, our results show that these men are more frequently born abroad and are particularly concerned with their protection.

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**REFERENCES**


