Identifying predictive factors for condom use in MSM and TGW in sub-Saharan Africa: Results from HPTN 075

Anita Marais

PHRU, Soweto CRS, South Africa
Introduction

- Consistent, correct condom = decrease in HIV and STI’s
- What influences risk-taking behaviour
- Not much known about risk in MSM and TGW in sub-Saharan Africa
- The IMB skills model
  - Information
  - Motivation
  - Behavioral skills
HPTN 075

- The feasibility of recruiting and retaining MSM and TGW into an HIV prevention study in sub-Saharan Africa.
- 401 participants followed over a one-year period with five study visits.
- Behavioural assessments done at each visit.

- **Study aim:** To identify predictors of condomless insertive and receptive anal sex among the HPTN 075 participants.
Methods

Study sample
- 294 MSM and TGW (out of 401)
- 18 – 44 years old, male at birth
- Anal sex with a man

Procedure
- Information take from behavioural assessments
- Independent/ predictor variables – Enrollment visit
- Outcome measures – Visit 3
Methods

Outcome measures (reported sex with up to 3 partners)

- Insertive anal sex vs receptive anal sex
- Always condoms vs any condomless anal sex
- STI and HIV corrected
## Methods

### Predictor variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model concept</th>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Response format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>HIV knowledge</td>
<td>“HIV can be transmitted through anal sex”</td>
<td>True or False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STI knowledge</td>
<td>“Chlamydia affects only women”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motivation</td>
<td>Attitudes towards condoms</td>
<td>“Condoms can be pleasurable”</td>
<td>Level of agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral skill</td>
<td>Social support</td>
<td>“In general, I feel that I can count on members of the gay community if I need help or advice”</td>
<td>Likelihood scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coping self-efficacy</td>
<td>“Take your mind off unpleasant thoughts”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External</td>
<td>Hazardous drinking (AUDIT-C)</td>
<td>“How often do you have six or more drinks on one occasion?”</td>
<td>Frequency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Methods

Statistical analysis

• Two parallel sets of analyses for insertive anal sex and in receptive anal sex, respectively
• Univariate logistics regression
• Covariates with a conservative p-value $\leq 0.1$ at the univariate level were included in a multivariate analysis
Results

Participant characteristics
• 120 reported only insertive anal sex
• 120 reported only receptive anal sex
• 54 reported having engaged in both
• 62.6% who had insertive anal sex reported condoms always
  • 7 new STIs and 1 seroconversion
• 66.1% who had receptive anal sex reported condoms always
  • 3 new STIs and 3 seroconversion
Logistic Regression of condomless insertive anal sex with male partner in past 3 months at Visit 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Insertive unprotected sex</th>
<th>Univariate</th>
<th>Multivariate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Always condoms</td>
<td>Any condomless sex</td>
<td>Odds Ratio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Sex Partners in the last 3 Months</td>
<td>1.46 (0.84)</td>
<td>1.86 (1.00)</td>
<td>1.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who wanted to use condoms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 1 participant/both</td>
<td>104/161 (64.6%)</td>
<td>57/161 (35.4%)</td>
<td>REF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only partners wanted</td>
<td>5/13 (38.5%)</td>
<td>8/13 (61.5%)</td>
<td>2.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-esteem</td>
<td>3.32 (0.56)</td>
<td>3.10 (0.70)</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Logistic Regression of condomless receptive anal sex with male partner in past 3 months at Visit 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Receptive unprotected sex</th>
<th>Univariate</th>
<th>Multivariate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Always condoms</td>
<td>Any condomless sex</td>
<td>Odds Ratio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study site</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kisumu, Kenya</td>
<td>35/40 (87.5%)</td>
<td>5/40 (12.5%)</td>
<td>REF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blantyre, Malawi</td>
<td>23/32 (71.9%)</td>
<td>9/32 (28.1%)</td>
<td>2.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Town, South Africa</td>
<td>23/38 (60.5%)</td>
<td>15/38 (39.5%)</td>
<td>4.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soweto, South Africa</td>
<td>34/64 (53.1%)</td>
<td>30/64 (46.9%)</td>
<td>6.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Sex Partners in the Last 3 Months</td>
<td>1.40 (0.68)</td>
<td>1.86 (0.96)</td>
<td>2.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discussion

- Concepts of the IMB model were used to identify predictors of condom use in MSM and TGW participating in the HPTN 075 study.
- Most participants reported consistently using condoms all the time.
- Having had more than one sexual partner predicted condomless anal sex.
- Condomless receptive anal sex varied by country.
- Condomless insertive anal sex was predicted by only the partner insisting on using condoms.
- A longitudinal study with data from different time points.
- This study factored in new STIs and HIV to correct for self-report.
- Limitations:
  - Only responses for up to three partners were assessed.
  - Difficult to distinguish whether an act of protected anal sex was influenced by different variables at different times for different circumstances.
Conclusion

In the HPTN 075 group studied, condomless anal sex was significantly predicted by the number of sexual partners, self-esteem, motivation for condom use, and country. Actual predictions varied based on insertive versus receptive anal sex.
Thank you!

maraisa@phru.za
Acknowledgments

• Overall support for the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) is provided by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Office of the Director (OD), National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) under Award Numbers UM1AI068619-15 (HPTN Leadership and Operations Center), UM1AI068617-15 (HPTN Statistical and Data Management Center), and UM1AI068613-15 (HPTN Laboratory Center).

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HPTN ANNUAL MEETING 2021