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BACKGROUND

- Long-acting pre-exposure prophylaxis (LA-PrEP) represents a major advancement in HIV prevention. However, its acceptability among men in high heterosexual HIV transmission settings remains poorly understood.
- Leveraging the HPTN 111 study in the fishing communities of Kalangala district, Uganda, a setting with high heterosexual HIV transmission, we assessed men's perspective and interest in LA-PrEP to inform future HIV prevention research.

METHODS

- HPTN 111 was a barbershop-based HIV prevention study conducted among men in Kalangala, Uganda.
- Barbershops were randomized 2:1 to either the intervention arm (n=12) or standard of care (SOC) (n=6) with men recruited under these barbershops.
- Intervention barbers were trained to provide participants with status-neutral HIV education, distribute HIV self-test kits, and facilitate peer-support discussions.
- SOC participants received routine HIV prevention services at established HIV clinics.
- At study exit (week 52 visit), interest in LA-PrEP was assessed using a structured questionnaire.
- Participants who responded "very interested" or "somewhat interested" to 'how interested would you be in taking LA injectable PrEP were classified as expressing interest. Interest was analyzed using adjusted probability differences accounting for shop-level clustering and adjusting for shop characteristics.

TABLE 1: Participant characteristics at baseline

	Enrolled participants (n=250)
Age (years), median (IQR)	29 (24,35)
Number of sexual partners in past 3 months, median (IQR)	4 (2,6)
Transactional sex in past 3 months	188/250 (75%)
Prevalence of treatable STI's	45/250 (18%)

Men in Kalangala islands, an area with high heterosexual HIV transmission, demonstrated high interest in LA-PrEP. This indicates the promise of including men in future LA-PrEP trials.

RESULTS

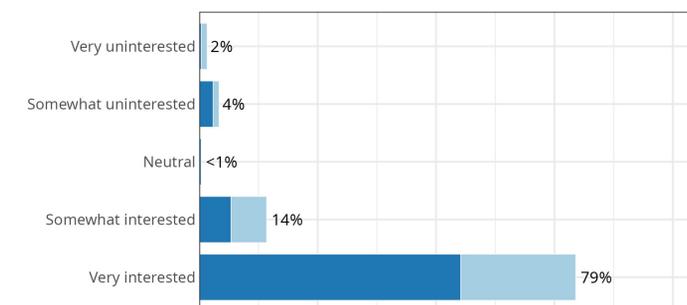
- A total of 250 men were enrolled (**Table 1**). At week 52, 239 participants completed the LA-PrEP questionnaire and 94% (224/239) were interested in LA injectable PrEP (**Figure 1**).
- Interest was similar in the intervention arm (148/157, 94%) and SOC arm (76/82, 93%); the adjusted difference in probabilities was 3.0% (95% CI -3.6%, 9.5%).
- Lenacapavir was more preferred than Cabotegravir for injectable PrEP, and health facilities were the most popular venue for receiving LA injectable PrEP (**Figure 1**).
- Participants liked the ease of use and discreteness of LA-PrEP. The most common reason for disliking LA injectable PrEP was the fear of injections.
- Interest in a monthly PrEP pill was high, though many preferred injections (**Table 2**).

CONCLUSIONS

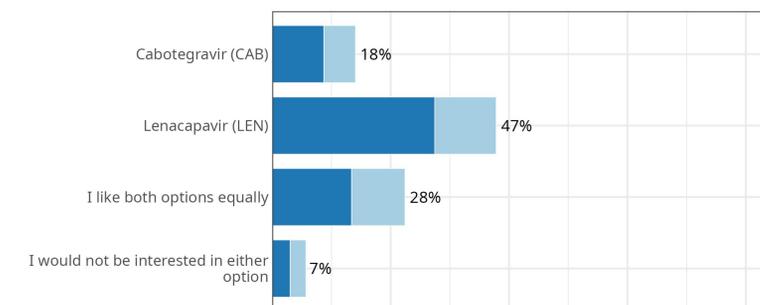
- Heterosexual men demonstrated very high interest in LA-PrEP, underscoring an important opportunity to expand male-focused HIV prevention strategies.
- Interest was high for both existing injectable LA-PrEP and a hypothetical monthly oral pill, though more men preferred injections.
- Implementation programs and future LA-PrEP trials should prioritize this population and examine the transition from interest to uptake and sustained use.

FIGURE 1: Participant interest in LA injectable PrEP

Q1: How interested would you be in taking long-acting injectable PrEP?



Q2: Given the information that you have learned about long-acting injectable PrEP which method would you prefer?



Q3: Where would you prefer to receive long-acting injectable PrEP?(mark all that apply)?

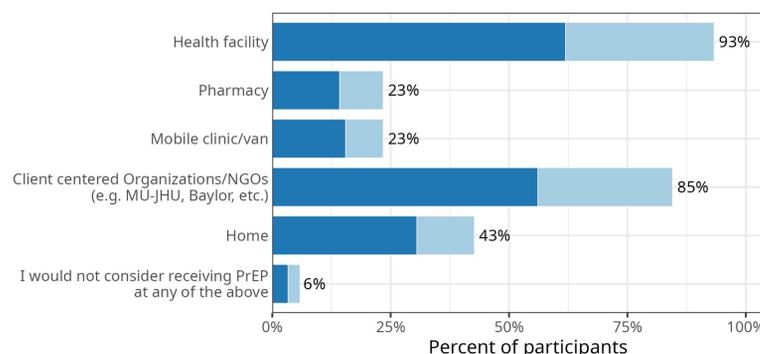


TABLE 2: Participant interest in monthly oral LA PrEP

		Overall (n=157 intervention, n=82 SOC)
How interested would you be in taking a monthly oral LA PrEP pill for HIV prevention if it became available in the future?	Interested	223/239 (93%)
	Not interested	16/239 (7%)
Would you prefer LA PrEP injections (like CAB or LEN) or LA PrEP pills?	LA PrEP injection	102/239 (43%)
	LA PrEP pill	41/239 (17%)
	Like both equally	90/239 (38%)
	Not interested in either	6/239 (3%)

ADDITIONAL KEY INFORMATION

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