Clinicn Practices and Attitudes Regarding Early Antiretroviral Therapy in the US: Baseline Results from HPTN 065

INTRODUCTION

- Use of antiretroviral therapy (ART) to prevent HIV transmission has received substantial attention following a recent randomized trial demonstrating efficacy of ART to reduce HIV transmission in HIV-discordant couples.
- The main purpose of the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) is to reduce transmission of HIV, through scientific research on the development, acceptability, and feasibility of interventions.
- The objectives of this survey are to understand the current practices and attitudes of ART-prescribing clinicians in the USA.

STUDY DESIGN

- ART-prescribing clinicians at 38 HIV care sites in the Bronx, NY and Washington, DC participating in the HPTN 065 (TLC-Plus) study completed a brief anonymous 29-item internet survey.

METHODS

- Study Flow of HIV Clinician Recruitment and Follow-up in 2 US Cities
  1. HIV Care Sites provided email addresses of all ART-prescribing clinicians to HPTN 065.
  2. Up to 4 email reminders were sent to site clinicians between September 29, 2010 and May 2, 2011.
  3. All ART-prescribing Clinicians, Nurse-Practitioners/Midwives, Physician Assistants, Physicians were sent a link to the survey.

RESULTS

CONCLUSIONS

This survey of HIV clinicians in two US cities found that (1) most providers’ practices were consistent with the prevailing September, 2011 DHHS guideline; (2) attitudes were supportive of earlier initiation to prevent transmission, even before the results of HPTN 052 or the updated March, 2012 DHHS recommendations; (3) the majority of clinicians will delay prescribing ART for patients who are unsure about their readiness to initiate ART; and (4) a substantial percentage of providers expressed concern about development of resistance or transmission of resistant virus because of early initiation of ART.

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For more information, or to view HPTN 065 (TLC-Plus) presentations, visit www.HPTN.org.

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