

# PEP/PrEP for Bacterial STIs and HIV-PrEP: knowledge and use among MSM in Rome

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## Introduction/Summary

- Bacterial STIs have seen a rise among MSM
- The effective use of cART, which virtually eliminates transmission risk (U=U), has influenced attitudes toward HIV acquisition, leading to riskier sexual behaviors
- Recent studies have demonstrated the efficacy of doxycycline in the prophylaxis of syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhea, with varying degrees of effectiveness
- Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil for HIV-PrEP has been recently approved in Italy

## Study Design

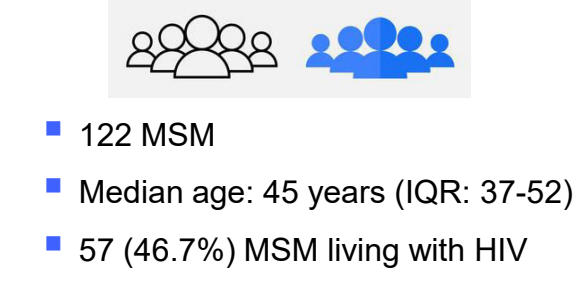
- We have explored the level of knowledge and use of STI PEP/PrEP and HIV-PrEP among MSM attending the HIV/STI center of the San Gallicano Dermatological Institute IRCCS (Rome, Italy)

## Methods

- Study population:** men who reported same-sex sexual intercourses in the previous year
- Study period:** October-November 2023
- Survey** through a self-compiled anonymous questionnaire on:
  - demographics
  - STI history
  - sexual behavior
  - awareness of STI PEP/PrEP (doxycycline or other antibiotics) and HIV-PrEP
  - use of STI PEP/PrEP and HIV-PrEP

## Results

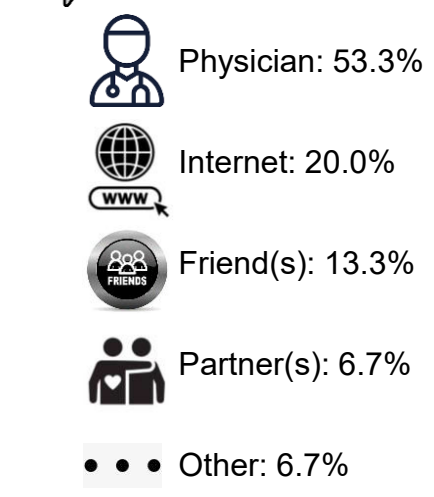
### Study population



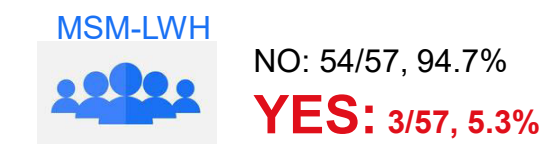
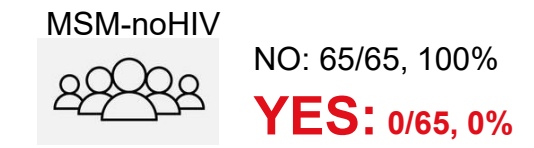
### Have you heard of STI PEP/PrEP?



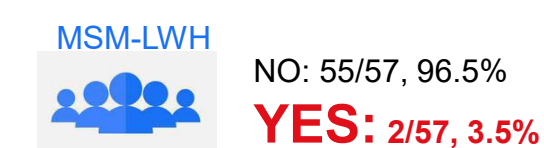
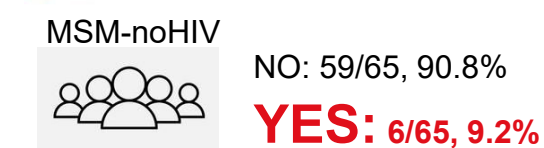
### Who told you about STI PEP/PrEP?



### Have you ever used STI PrEP?



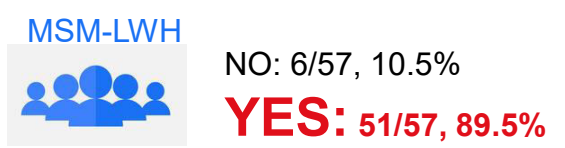
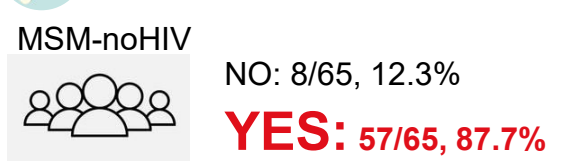
### Have you ever used STI PEP?



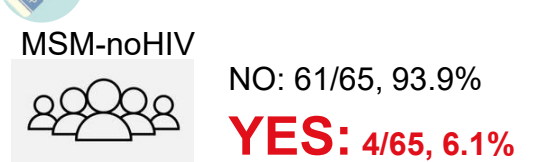
Use of STI PEP/PrEP was significantly associated with:

- Condomless sex, p=0.023
  - condom yes: 2/65, 3.1%
  - condom no: 9/57, 15.8%
- Chemsex, p=0.039
  - chemsex yes: 5/24, 20.8%
  - chemsex no: 6/98, 6.1%

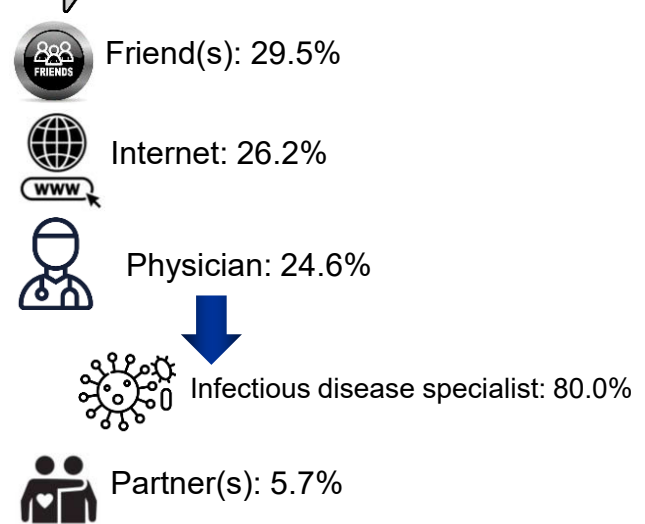
### Have you ever heard of HIV-PrEP?



### Have you ever used HIV-PrEP?



### Who told you about HIV-PrEP?



## Conclusion

Among MSM attending our STI/HIV center, knowledge and utilization of STI PEP/PrEP as a preventive measure against bacterial STIs remain limited. Despite the majority of HIV-negative MSM being aware of the availability of HIV-PrEP, only a small fraction reported actual usage. Enhancing the access to HIV-PrEP in our country, avoiding useless barriers and stigma, is a necessity.