

Sexually transmitted infection rates in MSM using HIV PrEP

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Introduction

There are an estimated 15,000 PrEP users in the UK.¹ PrEP users are a self-selected group of individuals who identify as high risk of HIV acquisition. Locally in Brighton (UK) we have a large MSM population, and high rates of STIs

Aim

To look at STI rates in MSM using PrEP that attend a sexual health clinic in Brighton

Approach

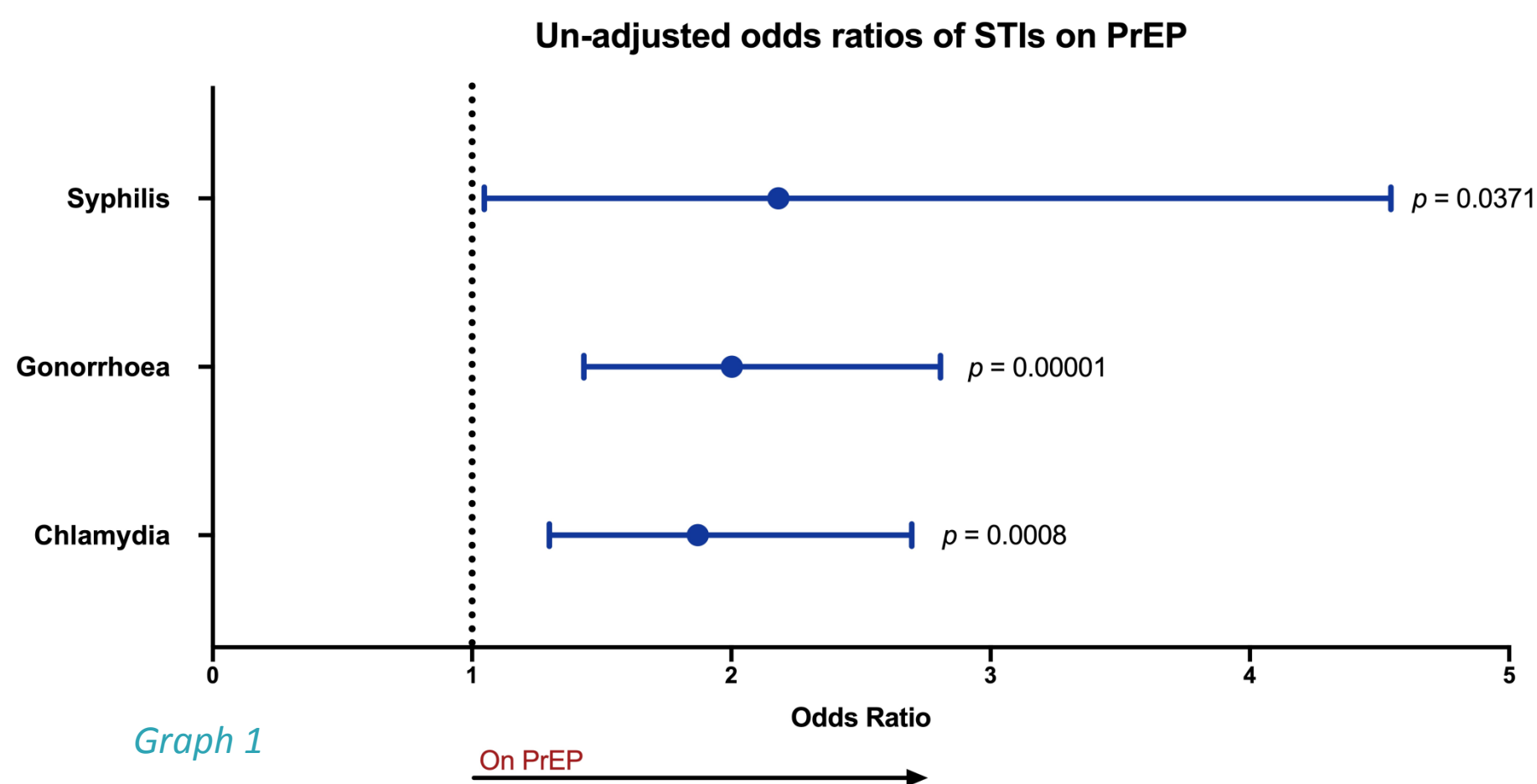
Between October 2017 to October 2018 we identified HIV negative MSM who attended our weekly MSM clinic, divided them into PrEP and non-PrEP groups using clinical coding to identify diagnosed bacterial STIs

Results (See Table 1 & Graph 1)

565 patients had complete data for analysis, 289 MSM using PrEP and 276 not using PrEP. MSM using PrEP attended for 1069 STI tests and MSM not using PrEP attended for 709 STI tests in the time period ($p < 0.0001$) 173 cases of Chlamydia; 107 in MSM using PrEP and 66 in MSM not using PrEP ($p = 0.0008$). 256 cases of gonorrhoea; 155 from MSM using PrEP and 101 in MSM not using PrEP ($p = 0.0001$). 35 cases of infectious syphilis (STS); 24 from MSM using PrEP, and 11 from MSM not using PrEP ($p = 0.371$). Rectal infections were seen in significantly more MSM using PrEP.

Table 1 - Sexually transmitted infections in MSM using PrEP

	On PrEP	Not taking PrEP	Odds ratio (CI)	p values
<i>n</i>	289	276		
Attendances (mean)	1069 (3.7)	709 (2.6)		<0.0001
Chlamydia (all sites)	107	66	1.87 (1.3-2.7)	0.0008
Rectal Chlamydia	66	37	1.91 (1.2-3.0)	0.0041
Gonorrhoea (all sites)	155	101	2.00 (1.4-2.8)	0.0001
Rectal Gonorrhoea	65	43	1.57 (1.0-2.4)	0.0376
Infective Syphilis	24	11	2.18 (1.0-4.5)	0.0371



Discussion

MSM using PrEP attended more frequently for STI tests and had significantly higher rates of chlamydia, gonorrhoea and infectious syphilis. MSM using PrEP are a self-selected group (*PrEP is not yet freely available in England*), acquiring PrEP via clinical trials or buying privately online. PrEP users attend for STI testing and PrEP monitoring frequently, and are likely to be at higher risk of STIs than MSM choosing not to use PrEP.

Conclusions

MSM using PrEP attended more frequently for STI screening, and had significantly higher rates of STIs.

These data support the on-going need for MSM using PrEP to have regular STI testing and educational support for other strategies to reduce STI risk

References:

1. <https://www.prepwatch.org/country/united-kingdom/>

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