

# DECISION CONFLICT AND DECISION SUPPORT NEEDS OF PrEP-ELIGIBLE BLACK PATIENTS IN TORONTO REGARDING ADOPTION OF PrEP FOR HIV PREVENTION

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# BACKGROUND:

- HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is recommended for populations at high ongoing risk of infection.
- PrEP acceptance among Blacks at risk of HIV in Toronto is low.
- Previous strategies to optimize the use of PrEP had focused on adherence without consideration for the decision-making needs of Black patients regarding the adoption of PrEP for HIV prevention.
- The aim of this study was to examine the decision conflicts, and the decision support needs of Black patients that are offered PrEP for HIV prevention.

# METHOD:

- The Ottawa Decision Support Framework (ODSF) was used as the framework for the development of key informant interview guide for qualitative data collection.
- Black patients meeting the criteria for starting PrEP were recruited through the St. Michael's Hospital Academic Family Health Team and clinical and community agencies in Toronto.
- Participants were interviewed by trained staff.
- Qualitative content analysis was guided by the ODSF, and analysis was done using the Nvivo.

# RESULTS:

- Twenty-nine women and men ( including men who have sex with men) were interviewed.
- The main reasons for decision conflict regarding PrEP adoption include; lack of adequate information about PrEP, concerns about the side effects of PrEP, inability to ascertain the benefits or risk of taking PrEP, provider's lack of adequate time for interaction during clinical consultation, and perceived pressure from healthcare providers.
- Participants also identified detailed information about PrEP, and the ability to clarify how their values align with the risk and benefits of PrEP as their decision support needs.

# CONCLUSION:

PrEP-eligible Black patients that are prescribed PrEP have decision conflict. A decision support tool that incorporates the decision support needs of Black patients will reduce decision conflict and improve the decision making process for adoption of PrEP for HIV prevention.