

PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS DROP-OUT: FOLLOW-UP AND RELINKING THROUGH TELEPHONE CONTACT

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BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is an effective HIV prevention strategy for people at high risk of infection. Long-term adherence to PrEP program in our health care setting is unknown.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To identify users who dropped out PrEP and to evaluate the usefulness of telephone contact for recapturing, through a multidisciplinary strategy (Infectious Diseases-Pharmacy).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- Transversal study on a cohort of PrEP users (April 2022-July 2023).
- Potential users without drug dispensing in the last three-months were identified.
- Clinical histories were reviewed to determine "true treatment discontinuations" (TTD).
- Those patients were contacted by telephone to offer relinking.
- Statistical analysis: values were expressed as medians (interquartile range-IQR) and patients (percentages).

RESULTS

- Total users in PrEP program: 292.
- 47 (16.0%) potential drop-outs: 23 (7.9%) TTD, and 24 (8.2%) real discontinuations.
- The causes of real discontinuations are shown in Figure 1.
- The characteristics of TTD are shown in Table 1.

Figure 1. Causes of real discontinuations

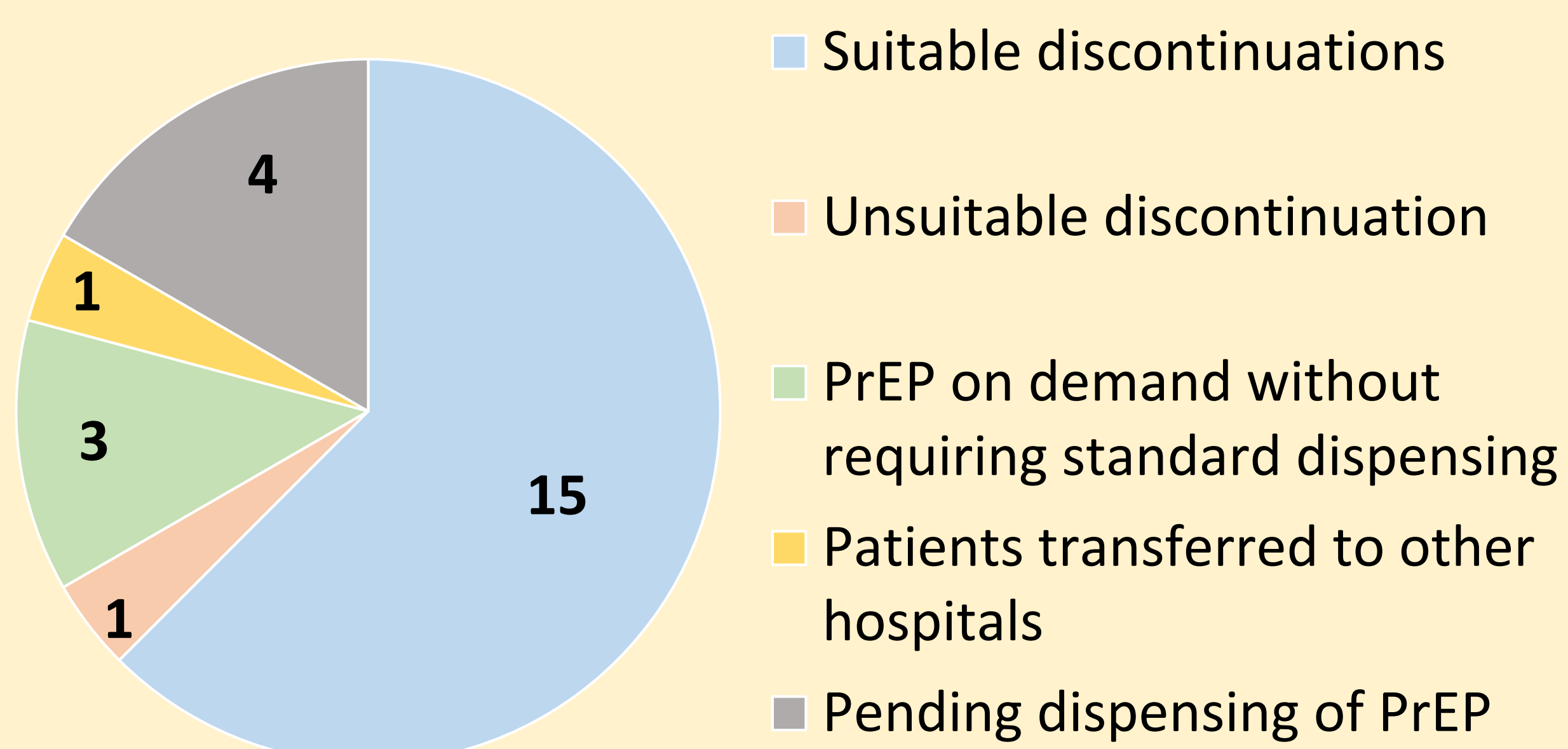


Table 1. Characteristics of 23 TTD (N (%)/median (IQR))

Gender	Cis man	23 (100)
Age		33.6 (29.5-39.7)
Origin	Spain	12 (52.2)
	Latin-America	8 (34.8)
	Europe/Western	3 (12)
Medical history	Psychiatrists	6 (26.1)
	Smoker	11 (47.8)
	Alcohol	16 (69.6)
	Non-sexual drugs	16 (69.6)
	Chemsex	6 (26.1)
	Three-month sessions	2.5 (5)
	Slamsex	2 (8.7)
	Previous sexually transmitted infection (STI)	Syphilis
MonkeyPox		1 (4.3)
% preservative		65 (52)
Couples/month		6.5 (4.3-11.5)
Previous PrEP		6 (26.1)
Previous post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)		13 (56.5)
Number of PEPs		1 (0-2)
Baseline tests	VIH	0
	Hepatitis B virus	0
	Hepatitis C virus	0
	<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	1 (4.3)
	<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	0
	<i>Lymphogranuloma venereum</i>	0
	<i>Mycoplasma genitalium</i>	2 (8.7)
	Syphilis	0
Nº users/month		3.9 (2.8-6.0)
Medical revisions		1 (0-2)
Reason for loss of tracking	Discontinuation	14 (60.9)
	Ending risky behaviour	1 (4.3)
	Transfer	3 (13)
	Missed appointment	4 (17.4)
	Others	1 (1)
Relinked patients		8 (34.8)

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

- Adherence to PrEP program is a healthcare challenge.
- Users showed high risk of HIV and STI transmission, and PrEP drop-out could lead to new avoidable HIV infections.
- Telephone contact could be insufficient to guarantee continuity in this program.
- The collaboration of Infectious Diseases and Pharmacy Department ensures communication with these users and retention in this program.



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