Controlling the HIV Epidemic with Antiretrovirals?

Why pills alone are not the silver bullet for gay men in the UK

Sir Nick Partridge
Terrence Higgins Trust, UK
Reducing onward transmission: Viral suppression among key population groups living with HIV in the United Kingdom. 19th Annual Conference of the British HIV Association (BHIVA) April 2013, Valerie Delpech, Alison Brown, Stephano Conti, Venkata Polavarapu, Zing Yin

**HIV epidemic in the UK to date**

- 128,680 diagnosed with HIV
  - New diagnoses concentrated in men who have sex with men (MSM), people from sub-Saharan Africa and people who inject drugs (PWID)
- 27,890 first AIDS diagnoses
- 21,040 deaths among people living with HIV
  - People living with HIV can now expect a near normal life expectancy with the introduction of effective ART.
- Estimated to be over 100,000 living with HIV by end of 2012 (25% unaware)
- Ageing cohort – as of 2011, 1 in 5 adults accessing care were aged 50 and older.

**Epidemiology of HIV in the United Kingdom, 2012**
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Treatment cascade of adults living with HIV: United Kingdom, 2011

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Number of HIV-infected gay men with a viral load >1500 copies/mL in the UK, 2006-2010.

HIV treatment as prevention among men who have sex with men in the UK: is transmission controlled by universal access to HIV treatment and care?
Distribution of viral load among gay men living with HIV in the UK in 2010

Viral load > 1500 copies/mL, 35%
14,000

Viral load < 1500 copies/mL, 65%

Undiagnosed
62% (n = 8,700)

Diagnosed

Untreated CD4 count
< 350 cells/μL
5% (n = 700)

Untreated CD4 count
350–500 cells/μL
12% (n = 1,700)

Untreated CD4 count
> 500 cells/μL
16% (n = 2,300)

Treated
5% (n = 700)
Reconstruction of HIV incidence from 2000

B: All condom use ceased
C: ART provided at diagnosis

http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0055312
Condom promotion works!
Acknowledgments

• Reducing onward transmission: Viral suppression among key population groups living with HIV in the United Kingdom. 19th Annual Conference of the British HIV Association (BHIVA) April 2013
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• HIV treatment as prevention among men who have sex with men in the UK: is transmission controlled by universal access to HIV treatment and care?
  AE Brown*, ON Gill, VC Delpech, Article first published online: 28 July 2013
  HIV Medicine, Volume 14, Issue 9, pages 563–570, October 2013

• Increased HIV Incidence in Men Who Have Sex with Men Despite High Levels of ART-Induced Viral Suppression: Analysis of an Extensively Documented Epidemic.
  doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0055312
  http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0055312

• HIV Prevention England, Terrence Higgins Trust
  https://www.startswithme.org.uk/en/