CONTROLLING THE HIV EPIDEMIC WITH ANTIRETROVIRALS

Avoiding the Cost of Inaction

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Overview

• Use
  – Choice/liberty
  – Well-being of individuals and communities

• Research

• Allocation
Choice/liberty

- Enables individuals at risk to take preventive measures
  - Not rely upon the actions of others
  - Can be discrete
- Enables episodic prevention during peaks of exposure
Well-being: Risk Behaviors

• Potential for increased risk behaviors
  – Unprotected sex
  – Additional partners
  – Riskier practices

• Hazards
  – Overwhelm preventive benefit
  – Other STIs
Well-being: Resistance

- Use of ARV(s) during early stages of infection
- Resistance
  - Treatment of the individual
  - Transmission to others
Well-being: Safety

• Side effects
  – E.g., gastrointestinal discomfort

• Adverse effects
  – E.g., renal toxicity

• Resistance
  – Need for periodic testing
Well-Being: Parameters of Use

- Use of ARVs without demonstrated efficacy and safety for PrEP
- Use of alternate dosing schedules without demonstrated efficacy and safety for PrEP
- Use without appropriate screening and testing
- Use without other HIV prevention services

MMWR, 2011; 60: 65-68
Well-being: Stigma

- Conflate with infection
- Promiscuity
  - Moral and cultural beliefs
  - Character
- Insurability and employment
Well-being: Diversion

• Use of ARVs intended for PrEP (of special concern where ARV access is limited)
  – To treat those infected with HIV
  – For profit
• Incomplete and unmonitored treatment may be harmful
  – To patients
  – Resistance
Considerations for Research

• Control arm
• Standard of prevention
SOP: Necessary Conditions

- Effective
- Practically achievable
- Reasonably accessible
Allocation

• HIV
  – Other forms of prevention
  – Treatment versus prevention
• Other health needs
• Research
Concluding Comments

• Evolving data support the use of antiretroviral agents for the prevention of HIV
• Nevertheless, their use is associated with ethical issues associated with their safe and effective use in practice
• Awareness of these ethical issues should help minimize untoward effects