

Where are we with PrEP use in Central and Eastern Europe? – data from the ECEE Network Group

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Background

- Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV infection is an important intervention to stop HIV epidemic. Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries experience increasing incidence of new HIV cases
- Therefore we investigated the change over time in PrEP use in this region

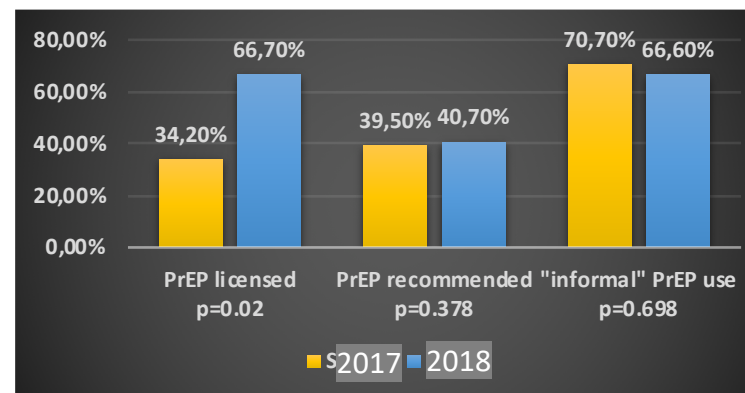
Methods

- The Euroguidelines in Central and Eastern Europe (ECEE) Network Group was initiated in February 2016 to compare standards of care for HIV and viral hepatitis infections in the region
- Data about access to PrEP were collected through on-line surveys
- Respondents were ECEE members from 25 countries from the region
- We performed two surveys, in March 2017 (76 respondents from 23 countries) and in October 2018 (28 respondents from 22 countries)

Results

- In 2017, 34.2% of respondents stated that tenofovir/emtricitabine (TDF/FTC) was licenced in the country, while in 2018, this was the case in 66.7% of respondents ($p=0.02$)
- PrEP was recommended in national guidelines in 39.5% of responses in 2017 and 40.7% respondents in 2018 ($p=0.378$)
- 70.7% of respondents were aware of "informal" PrEP use in 2017, while 66.6% of respondents were aware of it in 2018 ($p=0.698$)
- In 2018 in CEE region there were 53 PrEP offering centres (with the highest number in Poland and Romania). In six countries there were no PrEP offering centres
- The estimated number of HIV-negative patients on PrEP in 2018 in the region was about 4500. Generic TDF/FTC costs (in Euro) ranged from 10 (in Romania) to 275 (in Slovakia), while brand TDF/FTC costs (in Euro) ranged from 60 (in Albania) to 853 (in Finland)

Figure 1. Comparison of the PrEP use in CEE countries in 2017 and 2018 including p value



Conclusions

- There has been some improvement in licensing processes of TDF/FTC for PrEP
- This has yet not been reflected in guidelines nor has it lead to a decrease of "informal" use of PrEP
- PrEP remains rarely used method of prevention in CEE countries

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