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**TITLE**

Factors associated to incident sexually transmitted infections (STI) among men who have sex with men (MSM) and trans women (TGW) on oral PrEP in Latin America: the ImPrEP study

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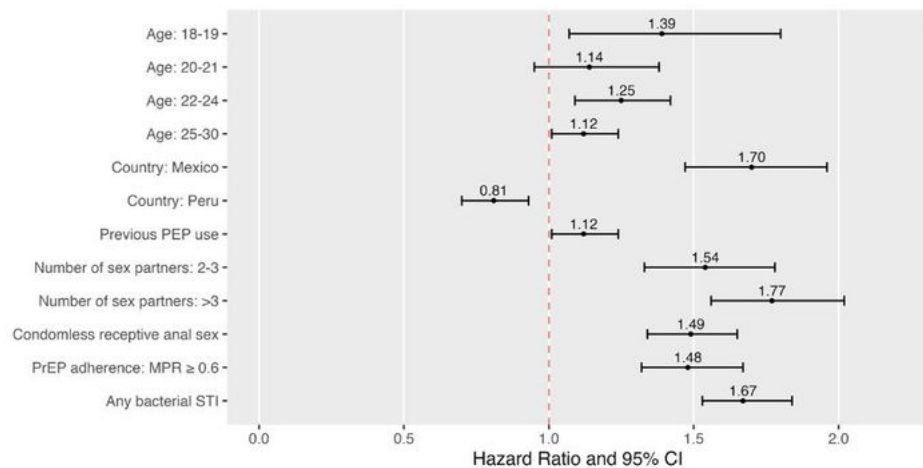
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**BACKGROUND:** Latin America holds a high burden of STI, disproportionately affecting MSM and TGW. Despite structural and a local response, regional expansion of PrEP programs would strengthen a combination prevention approach, including We aim to identify factors associated to STI diagnosis after PrEP initiation during the ImPrEP study.

**METHODS:** ImPrEP was a prospective, single-arm, open-label study, enrolling 9,509 MSM/TGW from February 2018 to December 2022. Siphilis serology was collected quarterly, while rectal chlamydia and gonorrhea molecular detection was performed quarterly. Participants with no STI testing during follow-up were excluded. The Cox proportional hazard model was used to identify factors associated with first diagnosis of any STI (p-value<=0.05).

**RESULTS:** Of 7,624 participants [Brazil(n=3,478); Mexico(n=2,541); Peru(n=1605)], 2350(30.8%) had at least one STI during follow-up. Participants younger than 30 years, reporting prior post-exposure prophylaxis use, multiple sex partners (>=2), condomless receptive anal sex (both within 3 months prior to baseline), presenting adequate PrEP adherence (medication possession rate [MPR]>=0.6 months prior to STI diagnosis), and having any STI at baseline had higher odds of having an incident STI during follow-up. A substantial behavior change was observed after PrEP initiation (Table 1). During follow-up, 28.5% (n=670/2,350) had rec

**Figure 1. Factors associated to any STI diagnosis during ImPrEP study**



**Table 1. Behavioral characteristics of ImPrEP participants diagnosed with any STI (n=2,350)**

	At study entry	At the time of first STI diagnosis
Multiple sex partners in the last 3 months (>= 2)	2,095 (89.15%)	1,991 (84.7%)
Condomless receptive anal sex	1,731 (73.7%)	1,037 (44.1%)
Use of stimulant drugs	502 (21.4%)	409 (17.4%)

**CONCLUSIONS:** High rates of STI among PrEP users underscore a need for tailored interventions, especially among young people. Our results suggest that PrEP users with incident STI were already highly vulnerable at the study's baseline, not configuring compensation behavior after PrEP initiation. PrEP programs represent an unprecedented opportunity to expand STI screening and preventing further HIV and bacterial STI transmission. Our findings also contribute to identifying individuals who would benefit from bacterial STI prophylaxis.

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