In both Nairobi and Johannesburg, awareness and understanding of PrEP was very limited among GBMSM. If reporting a history of consensual oral or anal intercourse with a man in the last 12 months.

South Africa and Kenya were the first African countries to approve use of oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for populations at high risk of HIV acquisition.

Between June 2016 and July 2017, in-depth interviews with 18 years of age or older; and

After providing a standardised definition of PrEP all PrEP uptake will be significantly influenced by a desire to reduce anxiety around infections during sex, which should be emphasized by those promoting its use. The extent to which it is a supplement to condoms, or a replacement, also needs to be considered in health promotion efforts.

In environments where HIV remains substantially stigmatized and hostility to GBMSM remains common, the potential for PrEP use to exacerbate these problems must be challenged wherever possible.

Awareness and understanding of PrEP was relatively low at just over a quarter of negative and untested men being able to correctly describe what PrEP was. In both cities many men stated they knew what PrEP was but were confusing it with Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP).

Once PrEP had been described, prospective acceptability was very high and two thirds of eligible men were willing to consider future use. Among those who expressed an interest in future use, the primary motivations were to reduce worries about the potential for HIV acquisition during sex and facilitating a less stressful and more pleasurable sex life. PrEP use without condoms was perceived as risky and most saw PrEP as an addition to condoms and not a replacement.

There were widespread concerns about potential side effects of PrEP and the stigma that might arise if users were perceived to have HIV or be “promiscuous”.

Scepticism was expressed about potential future topical formulations (rectal microbicides) but potential users expressed interest in long-term (injectable) formulations and intermittent dosing.

“There is some people that are going to be for it, and some people that are going to be against it. And the ones that are going to be against it, I feel as though they going to feel that it’s like promoting, this PrEP is promoting gay relationships, it’s going gay men power to continue their things which they think is wrong.”

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