

Risk Perception of Hiv Infection in Young Adults Attending the Preventive Health Service at the Iess Santo Domingo Outpatient Center

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ABSTRACT

Limited knowledge, misinformation, fear of contagion, homophobia, early initiation of sexual relations, multiple sexual partners, lack of condom use, and unprotected sexual practices; they constitute predictors of risk of HIV/AIDS infection. The fear of contagion leads to a sense of threat conceived from symbolic meanings, which influence the perception of risk of contagion without foundation. Studies carried out with different populations show a low perception of risk in the majority of the population, the greater awareness of perception is in women. The objective of the study is to analyze the perception of HIV risk associated with sexual behavior in young adults of all genders who attend the preventive medicine service, in order to fully understand the phenomenon and thus set a precedent for the development of more efficient strategies. to prevent contagion. Through a cross-sectional descriptive study, in a population between 18 and 40 years old, who attends the IESS Santo Domingo Ambulatory Center, a low perception of risk is evidenced, especially in women, in addition to the fact that 35% of the patients investigated do not use the condom and 46% do so occasionally, regardless of whether it is a casual relationship.

Keyword's: HIV, AIDS, Predictive factors, Risk of Contagion.

INTRODUCTION

HIV/AIDS is the infectious disease with the greatest impact on global public health, this epidemic has taken on different nuances in each continent.

Globally, it is estimated that around 38 million people are infected with the virus, of which 40% are young people between 15 and 24 years old (1) (6).

Epidemiological data show that the HIV phenomenon is increasingly affecting the young and female population, that is, more and more women and younger people are affected. It is noted that the female population constitutes 50% of the affected population worldwide (7) (8).

In Latin America there are about 2,100,000 people with HIV. Among people with HIV infection in Latin America and the Caribbean, 53% have been able to control the viral load in their system thanks to antiretroviral treatment. The first cases of HIV in Ecuador were detected in 1984; estimates made by the Ministry of Public Health, with the technical support of UNAIDS, indicate that by the end of 2020 there will be 45,0561 people living with HIV-PLHIV in the country, and of these, the age group between 15 and 49 years is the most affected by the epidemic, with the highest number of cases in men (6) (7) (8)

The epidemic in Ecuador is concentrated, in key population groups (CPGs), with a higher prevalence in men who have sex with men (MSM) 16.5% in Quito and 11.2% in Guayaquil, and transfemale women (MTF) 34.8% in Quito and 20.7% in Guayaquil. The province of Guayas presents the highest number of new cases, with 31.68%, followed by Pichincha with 16.51%, Manabí with 5.99%, Santo Domingo with 5.86%, El Oro with 5.75%, Los Ríos with 5.34%, Azuay with 5.28%, Esmeraldas 3.77% and Tungurahua with 3.14% (6) (13).

The different studies put I highlight the risk behavior among the young population, especially in the poorest African countries with the highest poverty rate (Botswana, Cameroon, Chad, Haiti, Kenya, Malawi, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe), and other third world countries in Central and South America, such as Brazil. (2)(3)(8).

Sexual behaviour modification is one of the most significant aspects to be achieved in the prevention of STIs and within them, HIV/AIDS infection; However, it is one of the most difficult to deal with for various reasons: sex causes pleasure, procreation and within its own context means power; It has a mute language and is practiced, but it is not discussed in many cultures of the world (9) (10).

With this panorama, it is necessary to point out that, although all people are prone to contracting HIV, there are a series of factors or social, economic, political and cultural characteristics that generate more vulnerability in specific populations because they present high levels of stigmatization, marginality or have inadequate conditions for access to mechanisms and information on adequate protection and prevention. (2)(3).

"The perception of risk against HIV/AIDS has been defined (2009) as the perceived exposure to contracting this virus and the situations that are woven between the individual and society that create that mentioned exposure ..." (11) (12).

This study aimed to analyze the perception of HIV risk associated with sexual behavior in young adults of all genders who attend the Preventive Medicine service of the Hospital Surgical Clinical Center of the IESS Santo Domingo day, through the use of the Bayes questionnaire. This involves evaluating the way in which young adults associate certain behaviors with certain consequences and the relationship that this has with the health behaviors they ultimately carry out.

METHODOLOGY

This study aims to describe the perception of risk of infection by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-AIDS)

Type of Study: Descriptive, Cross-sectional study, conducted in a population between 18 and 40 years old, with secondary and higher education, attending the IESS Santo Domingo Outpatient Center Department of Preventive and Occupational Health.

The attention groups are workers of public companies, factories, farms, private employees who come on an annual scheduled basis for labor check-ups, the universe is variable.

With the prior authorization of the directors and prior informed consent, the questionnaire for risk perception assessment of Bayés, Pastels and Tuldrá (1995-1996) was applied.

In story 1 a casual sex encounter is related, in story 2 a sexual activity is related within an affective relationship and in story 3 an extra sexual activity - couple is related. In the stories of casual sex (story 1) and sex with an emotional partner (story 2) there are five response alternatives that have been grouped into two options: the first encompasses the three alternatives of "continuing" even without a condom, since all involve some risk in the sexual transmission of HIV; the second group together the option of not continuing or continuing without penetration, which implies minimal risk in the sexual transmission of HIV. In the situation of extra couple sex. (story 3) The subjects are asked if they would communicate or / not communicate this fact to their partner, and if they would introduce changes in their sexual relations with their affective partner, if they answer affirmatively: "what would be the changes" and, if they answer negatively: why? In addition, they are asked open-ended questions in each answer option to explain the reasons for their choice.

The inclusion criteria: they are young men and women between 18 and 40 years old, with secondary and higher education.

Exclusion criteria: over 40, under 18, pregnant, basic level of education.

The questionnaire was applied anonymously on different days and different care groups to try to obtain a minimum representative sample of 100 people.

RESULTS

The sample with which we worked was 120 people, in an age range between 18 and 26 years (44 people), between 27 and 40 years (76 people, men 67 and women 53), with secondary education (50 people) and higher education (70 people).

The three Stories described.

1. John in a Casual Relationship 2. Carlos in an affective relationship 3. Luis in an extramarital affair.

Question 1. Number of sexual partners of interviewees

3 (2.5%) have not had relationships, 53 (44.2%) a partner and 31 (25.8%) two partners, 33 three partners or more (27.5%)

Question 2. - Use of condoms.

Overall, 42 people (35%) never use it, 56 (46.7%) sometimes and 22 (18.3%) always use it.

The next question is to put the interviewee in the position of each of the cases.

What would you do if you were the character in each of the stories?

(Juan, Carlos and Luis in relation to the use of condoms in each of the stories described.

In the case of Story 3 he wonders if Luis would tell his wife about the casual relationship, and finally he wondered.

Have you thought about AIDS?

It is observed that the majority of respondents thought about the possibility of contracting AIDS 82.50%, compared to 17.50% who did not think about it.

What degree of risk do you think the protagonist of the story has?

82.5% of respondents state that the risk of HIV transmission is possible, while only 17.5% state that the risk of transmission is low.

DISCUSSION

The usefulness of changing the perception of risk through behaviors with positive effects of impact on the individual and collective, which can lead to a healthier sexuality.

It is important to deepen preventive work, to continue research that emphasizes situations that limit the change of mental structures, both at the educational, cultural, social,

The use of condoms and the perception of HIV risk by young adults is especially conditioned by the trajectory of life, cultural values and the sexual context in which the being is inserted; In this way, both individual and collective perception varies according to social class, ethnicity, gender issues and other social components.

A cohort study conducted in Zimbabwe from 2003 to 2013 showed that sexually active people who perceived a risk of HIV infection had one-third the risk of HIV infection than those who did not (14).

The relationship between sociocultural factors, demographics, poverty, behaviour, perceptions and risk of HIV infection is complex. Someone who engages in behaviors associated with an increased risk of HIV infection (e.g., having multiple or unusual partners but uses protective measures (e.g., condoms) may not perceive a risk of HIV infection. This may be accurate if condoms are used consistently, but people may still be at higher risk if condoms are used only part of the time (14).

A large 10-year cohort study looks at changes in HIV risk perception and condom use in eastern Zimbabwe conducted between 2003 and 2013 in the sexually active and HIV-negative population aged 15 to 54. They support the relationship between condom use with the greater perception of risk of contagion, risk perception and condom use is bidirectional, condom use decreases risk perception, while it was determined that these 2 variables are influenced by other sociodemographic and behavioral factors that can confuse the perception and use of condoms (15).

CONCLUSION

Although there are no recent studies on the perception of HIV risk to explain its increase in recent years, it is certainly very important to emphasize the prevention of risk of infection and safe sexual practices. We must analyze the population's perception of HIV in order to fully understand the phenomenon and thus develop more efficient strategies to prevent infection.

In the population studied, there is evidence of an almost comparable group between men and women between 18 and 40 years old, despite the level of study a low perception of risk can be observed especially in women who may have maintained relationships with only one partner so they look at the risk of contagion less likely, in relation to men with a greater number of sexual partners.

The perception of risk is lower in people who are involved in stable affective relationships in relation to casual relationships. Results approaching the pilot test Lameiras, 1997) (4) (5) and in the Catalan samples (Bayés et al., 1995, 1996; Planes et al., 1999)

Accurate risk perception is vital so that people who are truly at higher risk of HIV infection also perceive themselves as at risk and are therefore motivated to protect themselves against infection. A relevant aspect is the use of condoms 35% do not use it and 46% do it occasionally, regardless of whether it is a casual relationship.

There is no clear perception that directly links other sexual practices with a potential risk of contagion, there is no clear association between certain behaviors or practices with negative consequences. (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15)

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