The possible involvement of GPs in PrEP follow up

Results of a masters thesis involving the general practitioners in Brussels

Done in **2020** with the help of Dr. Agnes Libois (S Clinic)

Dr Thomas ANDRE

CHU Saint Pierre (S-Clinic) / Free Clinic asbl



TFE 2020 - Dr. Thomas ANDRE **Le PrEP:**

Comment envisager la prescription et le suivi des patients sous PrEP en médecine générale ? Une étude de la situation dans la région Bruxelloise auprès des médecins généralistes



Two goals

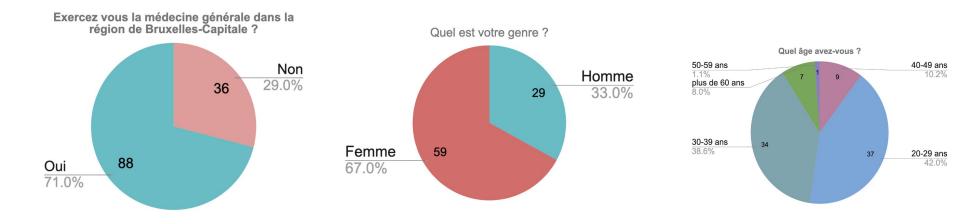
1 - Ask GPs opinion/thoughts on PrEP
2 - Assess GPs willingness to do PrEP start and follow-up themselves

Focused on Brussels

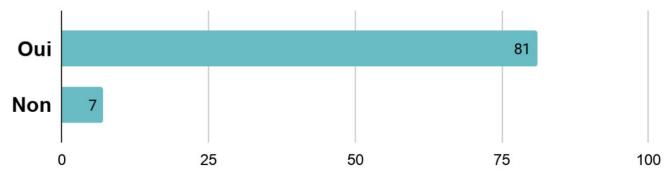
How ?

- **Google form survey** with multiple choice questions and Likert scales in french and dutch.
- Sent through eHealth, email, facebook groups and by asking colleagues/friends to share.
 - Answers collected from 9/2/2020 till 28/4/2020.
- Used as source of inspiration for the survey a questionnaire from a similar study, made in 2017 by Thijs Reyniers (ITM).

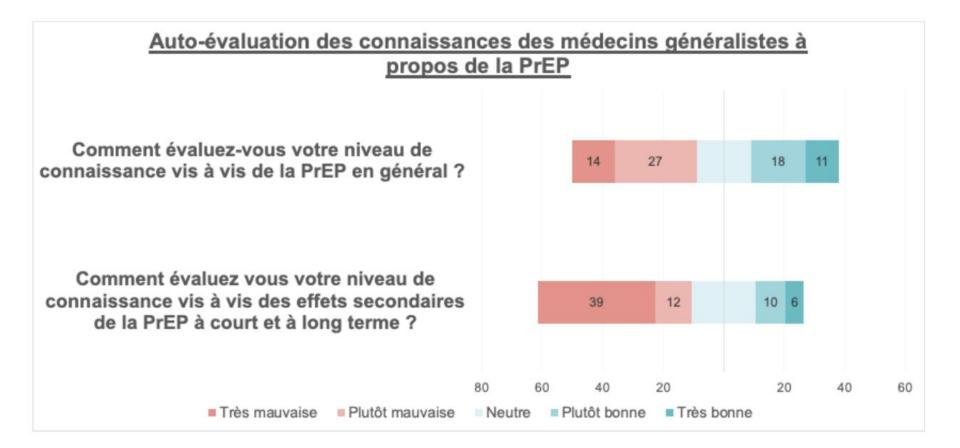
Results:



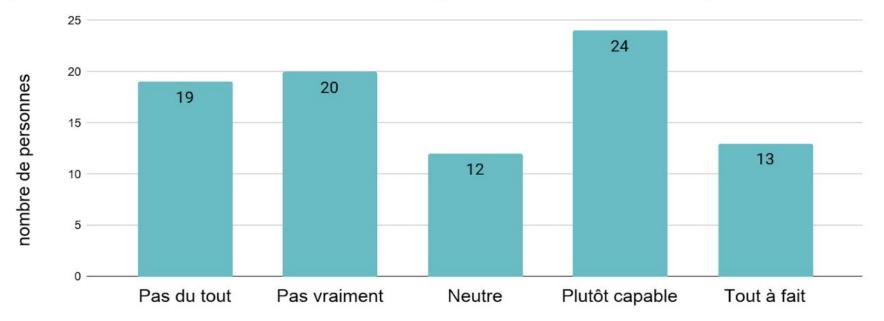
Connaissez vous la PrEP ?



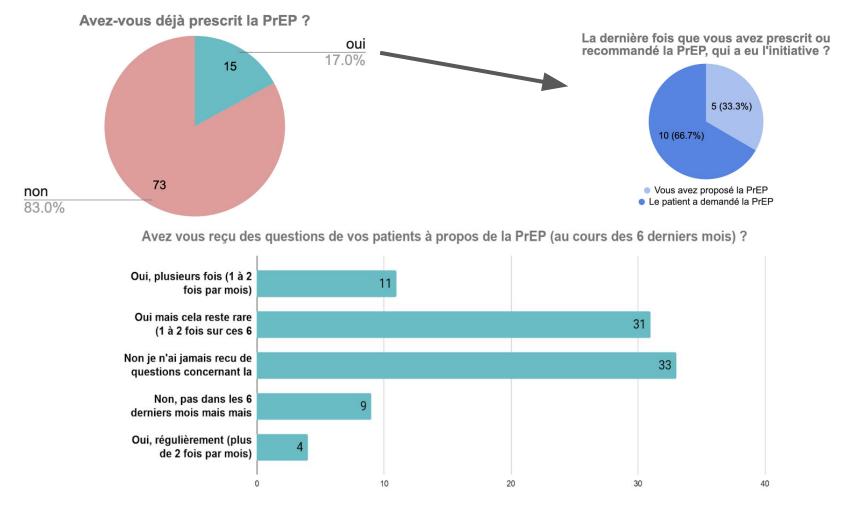
Self assessed knowledge



Vous sentez vous capable d'évaluer correctement la nécessité de prescrire la PrEP en fonction de vos patients et de leur comportement ?



What is their current experience ?



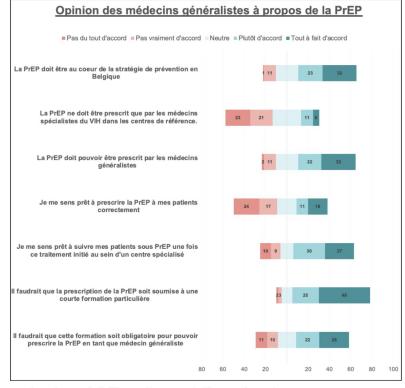
nombre de réponses

Figure 8: Les participants et leur formation concernant la PrEP

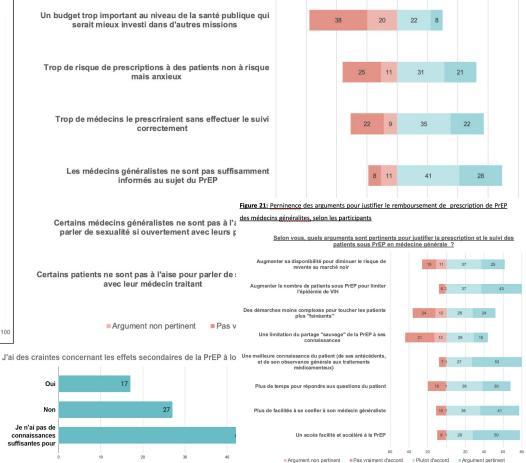
Avez vous déja recu des informations théoriques concernant la PrEP dans votre formation ?



Their opinion about PrEP



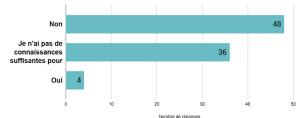
Selon vous, quels arguments sont pertinents pour justifier la restriction de la prescription du suivi des patients sous PrEP en médecine spécialisée au sein des centres HIV ?



Nombre de réponses

100

Je crains que la PrEP ne soit pas aussi efficace qu'on ne le pense



In summary: Large discrepancies regarding the opinion of GPs on PrEP

Not ready yet: Only 33% felt ready to prescribe PrEP

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- **Agreeing with the system:** 78,5% of GPs agreed that the lack of knowledge and education regarding PrEP was reason enough to limit their ability to prescribe it.
- **Agreeing with a change:** Most of the GPs agree on the usefulness of themselves prescribing PrEP to their patients
 - Central role to play in the patient's global health,
 - Know their patients better and assess better their ability to take a treatment correctly (90% agreed on that statement)
- 90% agree that PrEP in general practice would be useful to make PrEP use broader.
- What are they afraid of ? Biggest fear: 47% were afraid of the lack of <u>compliance</u> of their patients regarding the treatment

- **The more you know - the effects of knowledge** The GPs that self evaluated their knowledge regarding PrEP to be "good" or "very good" felt more at ease prescribing PrEP

- What knowledge do they lack? They lack specific knowledge: regarding the side effects of the treatment, 50% felt they didn't have sufficient knowledge to assess them.

They want to learn : 83% felt like they needed some kind of training to prescribe PrEP correctly but only 62% felt like this training should be made mandatory in order to prescribe PrEP.

- **They want e-learning:** most popular form was a 1h eLearning session followed by a quiz (81%), followed by a seminar (34%) and a day of in-person theoritical/practical training with a certificate (19%). 60% agreed that accreditation points would be a good incentive
- The older the GP, the less he felt the need for training.

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Less responsibility: The GPs were more willing to do a PrEP follow up (60%), rather than starting the treatment themselves in the first place (30%)

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- Older docs could do it too : No clear correlation between age of the GP and their self assessed ability to prescribe PrEP (on the contrary, older GPs felt they had a better knowledge about PrEPs side effects)

How do they do abroad ?

FormaPrEP

A good example



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JE ME FORME À LA PREP VIH

JE ME FORME À LA PrEP VIH

Épidémiologie

Le VIH et les populations clés

Prévention diversifiée

Les outils disponibles



Consultations

Les étapes en pratique



Santé sexuelle

Aborder la sexualité en médecine générale

And after the training ?

Autonomous GPs with PrEP ? Partnership between HIV reference centers and GPs ?

The end