



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

August 8, 2023

Local Health Department Medical Directors
RE: Recommendations for Doxy PEP in Adults

Dear Medical Director:

In order to combat alarming increases in bacterial STIs, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services would like to encourage the use of doxy-PEP in local health department STI clinics for adult men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women with more than 1 bacterial STI in the last 12 months.

Emerging evidence suggests doxycycline (200mg), when taken as doxy-PEP within 24 hours but no later than 72 hours after condomless sex, significantly reduces acquisition of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis in this population.

Evidence

A randomized controlled trial (RCT) using a single, oral dose of doxycycline 200mg within 72 hours after condomless oral, anal, or vaginal sex in MSM and transgender women, who were either persons living with HIV (PLWH) or taking HIV PrEP, showed significant reductions in CT, GC, and syphilis per quarter of study follow up. In persons on HIV PrEP, taking doxy-PEP reduced syphilis by 87 percent, CT by 88 percent, and GC by 55 percent while in PLWH doxy-PEP reduced syphilis by 77 percent, CT by 74 percent, and GC by 57 percent.

Safety

Taking doxycycline is safe and well tolerated, with no reported doxycycline associated Grade 2 or higher adverse events (AEs) and no documented laboratory-related severe AEs in the doxy-PEP RCT. Long-term use of doxycycline has been prescribed safely for other medical indications (e.g., acne treatment or malaria prophylaxis). Considering the safety of doxycycline as a preventative medication far outweighs the potential outcomes of untreated STI infections which include infertility, an increased risk of cancer and HIV infection.

Unknowns

Data continue to be collected and reviewed for possible antimicrobial resistance among bacterial STIs, commensal Neisseria (as a potential reservoir for tetracycline resistant plasmids), and Staphylococcus aureus. The effects of doxy-PEP on the gut microbiome are also being studied.

Prescribing doxy-PEP

Doxycycline is not FDA approved for STI PEP and there is no national organizational guidance for its use as STI prevention. However, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released considerations for doxy-PEP as an STI preventative strategy. Doxy-PEP has recently been approved as a 340b drug pricing covered medication. San Francisco Department of Public Health has released their own clinical protocol with counseling messages. The National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD) has set up a command center that includes marketing messages. The Detroit Public Health HIV/STI Clinic has also attached their clinical protocol.

References

*Luetkemeyer et al. Postexposure Doxycycline to Prevent Bacterial Sexually Transmitted Infections. N Engl J Med. 2023;388(14):1296-1306. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2211934
CDPH 2020 STI Surveillance Report*

We encourage you to consider incorporating a doxycycline-PEP clinical protocol in your STI clinical settings. While we know that not all STI clinics can offer HIV PrEP please ensure clients on doxycycline-PEP receive comprehensive HIV PrEP education and referrals.

Should there be any questions, please contact Dan Lowery at loweryd@michigan.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Natasha Bagdasarian, MD, MPH, FIDSA
Chief Medical Executive

Attachments

NB:dg