Identifying Opportunities to Discuss Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis During Contraceptive Coaching Discussions With Urban Adolescent Women

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HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) reduces HIV transmission and is approved for adolescents aged 12-17 years. Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) have modest PrEP uptake rates, while many receive reproductive health counseling. We sought to identify opportunities for incorporating PrEP education in contraceptive counseling delivered to AGYW. We performed a secondary analysis of data from the Health Coaching for Contraceptive Continuation pilot study, which supported contraceptive use among AGYW. Participants were 14-22 years old, sexually active with males, and not desiring pregnancy within 12 months. Coaches were sexual health educators with ?5 years' experience providing contraceptive and PrEP counseling to youth. Participants completed a baseline visit within 30 days of contraceptive initiation and completed up to five monthly coaching sessions. Of 33 enrollees, this analysis includes the 21 who completed ?4 sessions. Two coders deductively coded session transcripts for five themes: opportunities to discuss PrEP; HIV knowledge, risk perception, and testing attitudes; changes in HIV risk status; condom use knowledge and skills; and sexually transmitted infection knowledge and risk perception. Of the 111 transcripts coded, 24 contained opportunities to discuss PrEP and were inductively analyzed. Thematic analysis demonstrated three types of opportunities for PrEP discussions: failure to introduce information, and provision of incomplete information or misinformation. Analysis also revealed four opportunity contexts: sexually transmitted infection prevention strategies, HIV risk reduction, avoidance of adverse sexual health outcomes, and disclosures of condom nonprotected sexual behaviors. Only one transcript mentioned PrEP. Multiple opportunities to introduce PrEP counseling exist within contraceptive counseling provided to AGYW.

Journal:

Journal of Adolescent Health
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  Apr 2019