

STAFF and Patient Perspectives on Injectable ART for Hard to Reach Populations

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Background

The advent of injectable ART presents unique opportunities and challenges. A mixed methods survey was administered at STAR Health Center Downstate among both staff and patients to assess the level of acceptance of this new class of medication among hard to reach populations.

Methods

Multidisciplinary staff (including: providers, nurses, pharmacist, front desk, case management, Mental health counselors, re-entry community health worker) to assess their perspectives on the clinic incorporating injectable or implantable medications as a treatment modality for hard to reach populations. To assess patient perspectives, supervisors and line staff who closely interact with patients were given an inservice on injectable medications in the pipeline and administered a survey to hard to reach populations within the clinic including: patients with mental health or substance use disorders, re-entrants, pregnant, newly diagnosed, and those at risk of falling out care. Patients were asked to select which regimen they preferred to take: A monthly injectable, implant, or a weekly pill

Results

Multidisciplinary staff (n=40) were surveyed and cited adherence, cognitive or mobility impairment, stigma and pill fatigue would be indications to incorporate the LA-ART as treatment options, but counter opinions such as poor adherence to visits, increased staff workflow, and less patient follow up time were listed as concerns by the staff. A random sample of Star Clinic patients (n=106) were given a self-report survey and the results of the survey were analyzed via an SPSS logistic regression analysis.

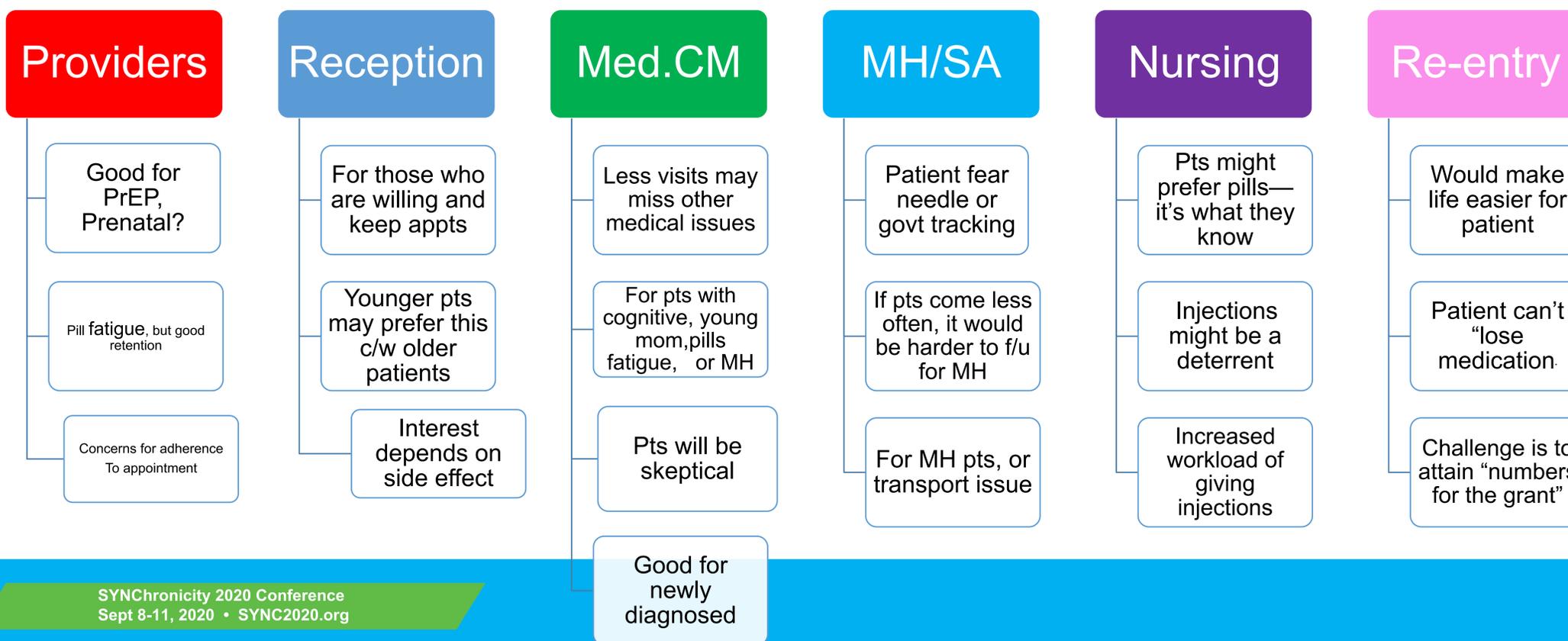
Results for both factors (patients in Behavioral Health program, patients in CM program) indicated that being part of either one of the programs did not have a statistically significant impact on whether patients said “yes” to trying a new LA ART treatment regimen (95% CI for BH program= {.152,1.003}, 95% CI for other/CM program= {.109,1.843}). The results were not statistically significant because the confidence intervals for each factors’ odds ratios included the null value of 1.

Results: Staff Perspectives on LA-ART (below) and Patient Perspectives (top right) by patient characteristics

Patient Perspectives:

Total: 101 patients, 46 Male, 55Female;

Population	Injectable	Implant	Weekly pill
Overall	54%	28%	69%
Re-entry	0%	80%	100%
Prenatal	67%	50%	83%
<40 years	77%	53%	65%
MH/SUD	88%	19%	81%
MCM Pt Navgrtr	58%	32%	79%
Males	57%	37%	70%
Females	53%	22%	55%



Conclusions

These findings suggest that hard to reach populations, such as those linked to behavioral health or case management program may be more open to LA-ART than those not linked to supportive services. The staff who treat these populations recognize the benefits but outline realistic concerns which need further investigation.

Next Steps

The focus of this review was to inquire on People Living with HIV and their perspectives on LA-ART. A future area of interest would be to assess the interest among PEP and PrEP patients.

Contact

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