

2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference on

# STDs, STIs & HIV/AIDS

May 18-19, 2018 | Montreal, Canada

## Psychological effects of ARV drugs among MSM

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This paper describes the Psychological effects of anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs among men who have sex with men (MSM). Antiretroviral drugs inhibit the reproduction of retroviruses—viruses composed of ribonucleic acid (RNA) rather than deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). The best known of this group is Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the causative agent of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (Thaker et al. 2003). Antiretroviral agents are virustatic agents which block steps in the replication of the virus. The drugs are not curative; however continued use of drugs, particularly in multi-drug regimens, significantly slows disease progression. Key informant interview method to collect information from community leaders who have first hand knowledge about the community, at least 5-10 key affected clients in their designated treatment facility, a

courtesy call sent to the treatment hub physician via email for permission. Results shows, surveillance, prevention, and treatment are impeded by the stigma and secrecy that surround same-sex behavior, further fueling the epidemic and creating additional barriers to care. Some men have sex with other men without self-identifying as gay or bi-sexual, so they disregard prevention messages directed at the gay community. The researcher can foster non-judgmental prevention (with a wide range of safer sex options according to the specific person's needs and lifestyle), monitor psychological sequelae, adherence, and quality of life issues (e.g., sleep, sexual functioning), and assist in managing the psychosocial impact of the disease on infected people and their relatives.

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