

Cervical Cancer Screening in Transgender Men in El Salvador, a Pilot Study

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Disclosures

- Basic Health International (BHI): funding for this project has been provided by BHI's own funds, at no time has BHI received funding from the medical-pharmaceutical industry or another entity that could be favored by the results of the study
- Lead author has no financial relationships or conflicts of interest to disclose

Background

- There is limited information on cervical cancer screening for transgender men in developing countries
- It has been reported that the use of the Pap smear in this population provides a greater number of unsatisfactory screening results¹
- This pilot study carried out cervical cancer screening in transgender men in El Salvador with an HPV test through self-sampling

¹Peitzmeier et al. (2014). Female-to-male patients have high prevalence of unsatisfactory Paps compared to non-transgender females. *J Gyn Maternal Med*, 29(5): 778-784.

Objectives

- Primary Aim: Investigate the use of self-collected molecular tests that detect the human papillomavirus (HPV) to screen for cervical cancer in a population of transgender men in a low-middle income country
- Secondary Aim: Evaluate patterns of testosterone therapy use and associated clinical conditions among transgender men

Methods

- The study was planned in partnership with "Generación Hombres Trans", a trans-advocacy organization that is part of the Cancer Prevention Alliance in El Salvador
- All members of "Generación Hombres Trans" were contacted and invited to participate in the project
- Potential subjects participated in an educational session that explained the importance of cervical cancer screening
- Study procedures consisted of a survey, physical examination, lab tests, and HPV self-sampling

Subjects

24/35 transgender men from
Generación Hombres Trans El
Salvador

Between 19 and 55
years of age



All participants
provided informed
consent



Survey and clinical evaluations



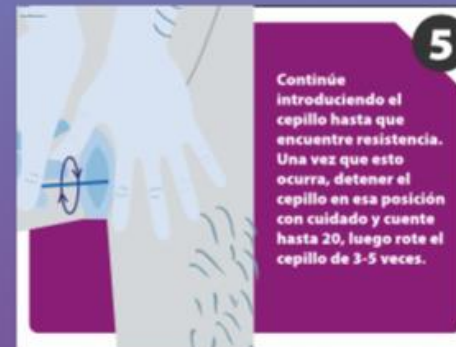
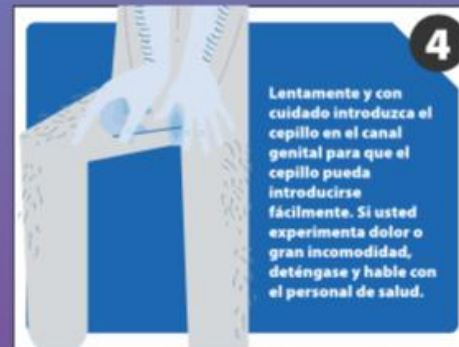
Survey/HPV
sampling:

Demographic info,
health and sexual
behaviors,
knowledge about
cervical cancer



Cervical cancer screening was
performed with a self-sampled
careHPV test.

Self-sampling instructions



Procedimiento para el auto-toma



Survey and clinical evaluations



Survey/HPV sampling:

Demographic info, health and sexual behaviors, knowledge about cervical cancer



Physical examination:

To assess weight, height and BMI levels



Laboratory tests:

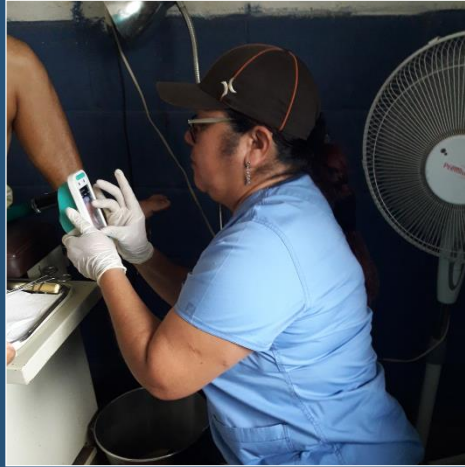
To measure circulating testosterone hormone levels



Densitometry and EKG:

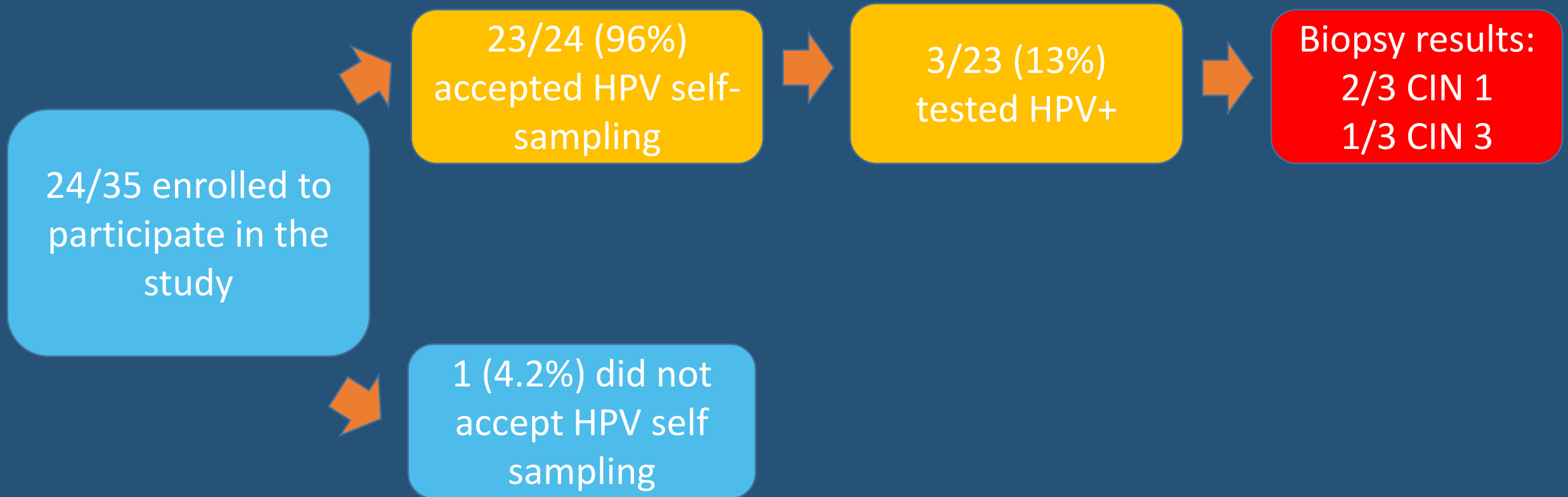
To evaluate known complications of testosterone hormone use

Follow-up



Participants who had a positive HPV result were offered colposcopy, biopsy, and, if eligible, cryotherapy treatment.

HPV test and biopsy results



Use of testosterone hormone therapy

Pattern of use	Frequency (%)
Use of testosterone hormone without medical supervision	8 (33)
Use of testosterone hormone with medical supervision	1 (4)
No use of testosterone hormone	15 (63)
Total	24 (100)

Proportion of subjects with conditions associated with testosterone hormone therapy

Disease (criteria for diagnosis)	Frequency (%)
Obesity (BMI \geq 30)	8 (33)
Overweight (BMI = 25-29.99)	8 (33)
Pre-Diabetes	1 (4)
Hypertension	3 (13)
Prehypertension (systolic 120-129 mmHg, diastolic $<$ 80 mmHg)	7 (29)
Hypercholesterolemia	7 (29)
Hypertriglyceridemia	6 (25)
Hem concentration	5 (21)
Anemia	1 (4)

Conclusions

- The use of HPV self-sampling screening in transgender men may be a viable method that can significantly improve acceptability and participation in cervical cancer screening
- Cervical cancer screening among transgender men can be viewed as an opportunity to screen for other health conditions
- There was a high percentage of use of the testosterone with minimum medical supervision in this group
- The incidence of cardio metabolic diseases is similar to those in the general population of El Salvador

Acceptability of HPV self-sampling

“It was difficult to decide, but when they told me that I would do the exam by myself, everything was different. Now I would recommend this to other transgender men”

-SG, 23 years of age

Thank you

