Improving Anal Cancer Screening in an Ambulatory HIV Clinic: A Quality Improvement Initiative
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Background
• Rates of anal cancer are significantly higher in persons living with HIV (PLWH)
• Early disease detection is associated with improved outcomes, but rates of screening for anal cancer are low

Screening Recommendations1,2
• PLWH should be screened annually with digital rectal exam (DRE)
• Anal cytology (anal Pap) should be offered if the ability exists to provide follow up on abnormal results with high resolution anoscopy (HRA)

The Problem: Patients were not being regularly screened for anal cancer

Proposed Solution: A Dedicated Anal Health Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screening Visits</th>
<th>Follow-Up Visits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DRE + cytology</td>
<td>HRA &amp; biopsy for abnormal cytology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient education regarding HPV</td>
<td>In-clinic treatment of dysplasia or referral if needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Quality Improvement Process
1. Assessed baseline practices
2. Assessed clinicians’ barriers to screening
3. Determined “best practices”
4. Developed solution
5. Received buy-in from key informants & stakeholders
6. Implemented program & evaluated outcomes

Evaluation
Reviewed charts in 3 time periods:
• 2007: Baseline preliminary steps implemented for anal cancer screening
• 2008: Transition
• 2009: Implementation dedicated anal health program fully operational

Chart Review

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Comparison Years</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>p – value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007:2008</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008:2009</td>
<td>2.60</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007:2009</td>
<td>7.45</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
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Odds Ratio of Being Screened for Anal Cancer

Conclusions
• A dedicated anal health program is feasible
• Need clear guidelines for follow up and buy-in from staff and patients
• A dedicated program is one mechanism to increase screening
• HIV treatment centers must meet the needs of PLWH as the disease paradigm continues to evolve