

0877 Views of an at-risk group towards oral carriage of HIV

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There is growing recognition that oro-genital sexual practices may lead to the transmission of a wide variety of sexually transmitted infections, including Human Immune Deficiency Viruses (HIV). However, there is a lack of information about the views of at-risk groups towards oral carriage of HIV. Objectives: To assess knowledge, attitudes and behavior of a HIV at risk group towards oral carriage of HIV, its manifestations and oro-genital sex and oral health. Methods: Cross sectional self-administered questionnaire surveys in sampled groups of Hong Kong Chinese residents attending genito-urinary clinics. Results: Of the 304 respondents, most were unaware that HIV could manifest itself in the mouth (77%, 234). Most perceived oro-genital sex of being at no risk in the transmission of HIV (75%, 229). However, they attributed varying risk to different oral health states. Few reported using any form of protection when engaging in oro-genital sex (22%, 66) and many claimed they would never discuss with their doctor (59%, 181) or dentist (81%, 245) about oral health and sexual health. Conclusions: Among the HIV at risk group studied there was a lack of knowledge about oral carriage; oral manifestations of HIV and most of the respondents attributed no risk to oro-genital sex and rarely used any protection. These findings have implications for the role of the dentist either directly or indirectly through other social and health care workers in preventing the spread of HIV.

[Seq #99 - Treatment Utilization, Consumer Knowledge, Attitudes, and Perceptions](#)

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