

Improvement of Anal Pap Collection Documentation and Adequacy in PLWHIV in Infectious Diseases Clinic

Frederico Villa-Chan, MD; Zachary Pryor; Kelly Wark, MD; Ryan Kubat, DO; Jessica Newman, DO
University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS

Introduction

Anal Pap smear is an essential tool for high-risk hrHPV-associated ASCC, particularly in PLWHIV. Currently, there is no consensus regarding time intervals or protocols for screening of anal hrHPV-associated cancer. Limited reports suggest self-collected specimens have similar cytology sensitivity compared to physician-collected samples.

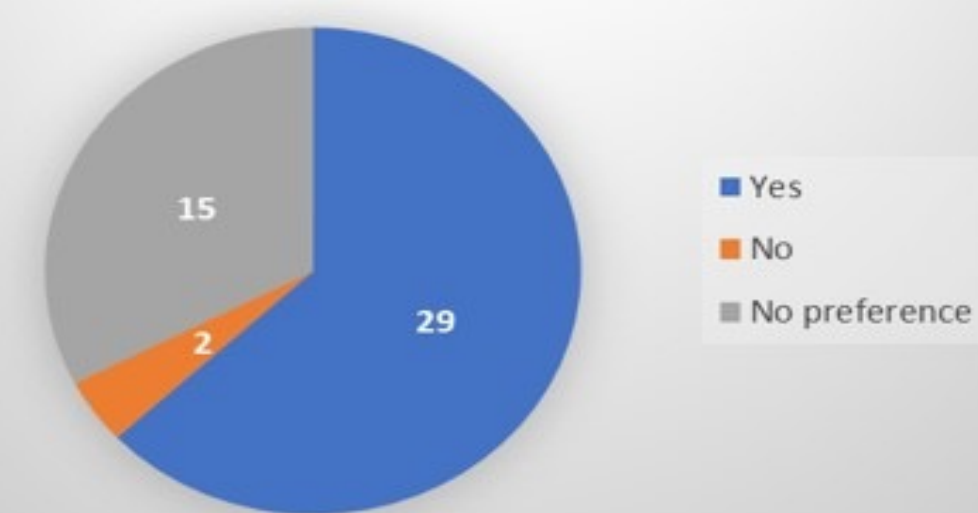
Objective and Methods

- We utilized a QIP to assess validity of self-collected anal swab specimens for screening of hrHPV-related anal lesions versus physician-collected specimens over 3 months.
- The protocol was implemented in an Infectious Diseases clinic by patients and physicians during routine visits. Patients learned about the QIP via educational handout and were offered self- or physician-collection.

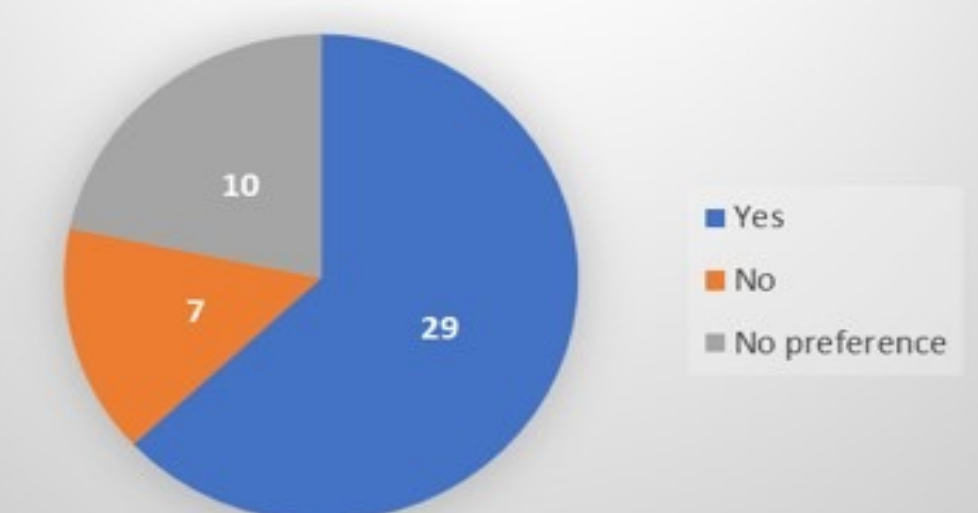
Results

- A total of 60 patients participated in the project.
- 75% opted for self-collection and 35 of 45 specimens were adequate.
- 10 of 45 physician-collected samples were adequate for interpretation.
- Fisher exact test value was 0.49.
- 77% of patients completed the satisfaction survey.
- 13% reported preference for physician-performed procedure.
- 63% felt that a self-collection option made them more likely to complete the Pap.
- Survey analysis showed increased patient satisfaction and similar adequacy of samples collected.

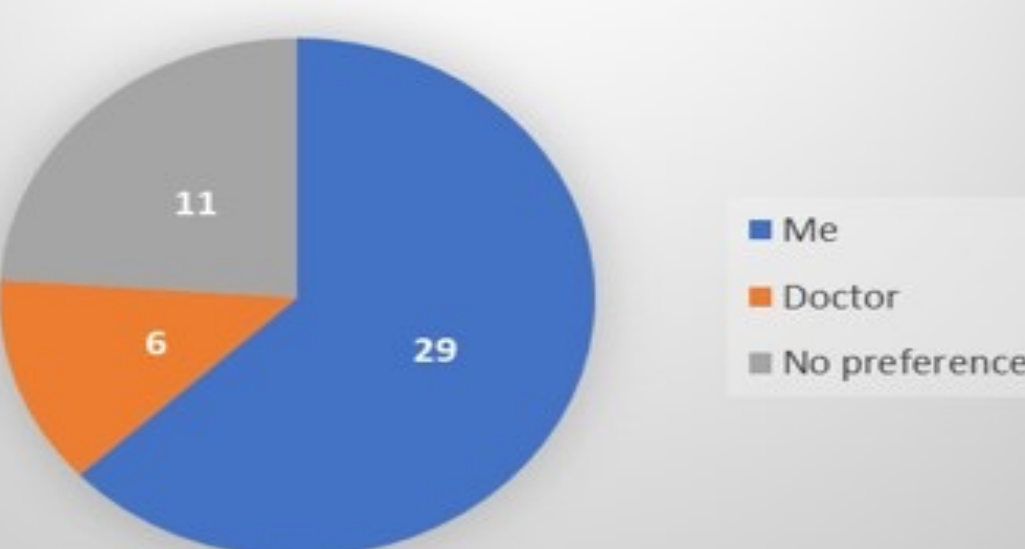
Were you MORE satisfied with your anal Pap because you could collect it yourself?



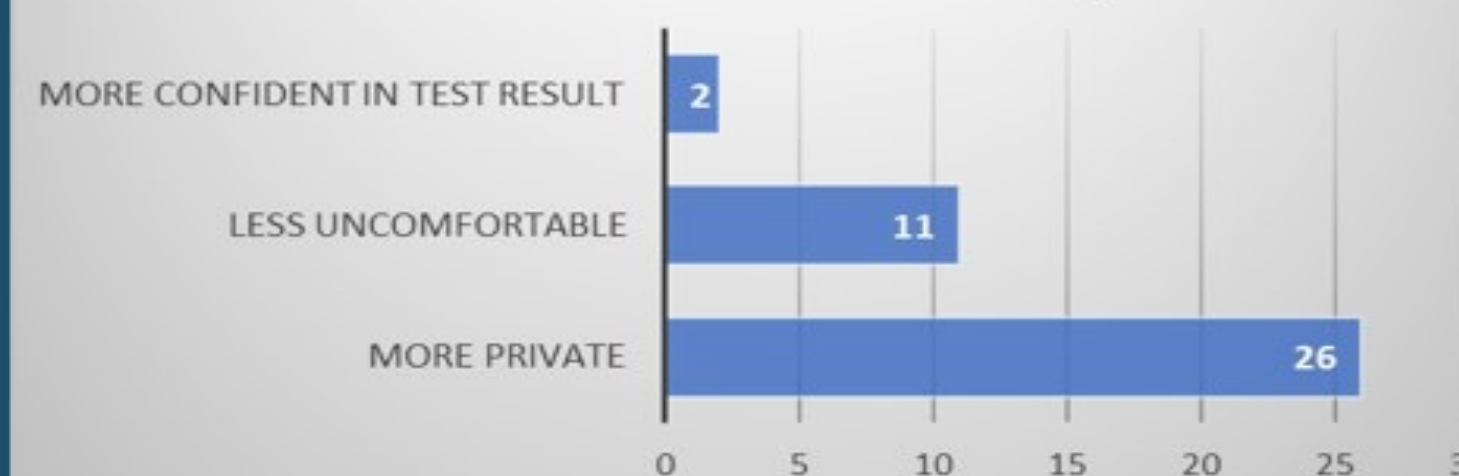
Did being offered to collect your own swab make you MORE likely to do the Pap?



Who would you prefer collect your anal Pap?



If you prefer collecting your own swab, please circle reasons why (can circle more than one).



Discussion

- Limitations of the project included Hawthorne effect and a relatively small sample size of self-collected specimens (n=45).
- While the project was not powered to demonstrate an increase in acceptance of anal Paps, increased patient satisfaction could lead to improvement over time with a simple and inexpensive workflow adjustment.
- With expansion of telehealth, self-collected anal Paps may increase opportunities to complete screening at times physicians are not available.
- Studies with larger populations, in multiple institutions and with varying educational handouts/instruction methods may provide better data to corroborate recommendations regarding best practices for screening for ASCC.

References

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