

Summer Student Research Program

Project Description

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PROJECT TITLE (200 Characters max):

Doxy-PEP: Emergency Department Patients' Perspectives on Doxycycline Post-Exposure Prophylaxis

HYPOTHESIS:

There is strong evidence supporting the clinical utility and patient acceptability of doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis (Doxy-PEP) for STI prevention. In a recent trial (NCT03980223), 89% of participants—primarily men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women—rated Doxy-PEP as acceptable or very acceptable, citing perceived effectiveness, improved sexual health control, and reduced anxiety about STIs. Importantly, the study found no significant increase in risk compensation or high-risk sexual behaviors. Participants reported that Doxy-PEP enhanced their autonomy and was integrated into existing prevention routines, often alongside HIV PrEP. These findings underscore Doxy-PEP's alignment with current public health goals and the need to understand how it may be accepted in broader clinical settings. Our study will address a critical knowledge gap by exploring perspectives among emergency department patients—a population often underrepresented in STI prevention research but disproportionately impacted by STIs. This insight is essential to guiding future, equitable implementation of Doxy-PEP.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Include design, methodology, data collection, techniques, data analysis to be employed and evaluation and interpretation methodology)

This is a mixed-methods study conducted at University Hospital's Emergency Department with three components:

1. Eligibility Screening
2. Quantitative Survey: Upon providing informed consent, participants will be handed a tablet device containing the survey instrument, which they will be asked to complete.
3. Medical Record Review at 1 week and 12 months.

Data will be securely collected and stored in REDCap. Medical records will be reviewed 1 week and 12 months after the participants emergency department visit. Statistical analyses will include descriptive statistics and regression modeling. Medical record data will be extracted and reviewed from EPIC. Data will be collected through a survey uploaded into Rutgers's REDCap.

SPONSOR'S MOST RECENT PUBLICATIONS RELEVANT TO THIS RESEARCH:

Cowan E, Kerr CA, Daniel J, Vail RM, Shah SS, Fine SM, McGowan JP, Merrick ST, Radix AE, Monroe AK, Rodrigues J, Hoffmann CJ, Norton BL, Gonzalez CJ. PEP to Prevent HIV Infection [Internet]. Baltimore (MD): Johns Hopkins University; 2025 May. PMID: 33026756.

Cowan E, Hoffman S, Bauman LJ, Calderon Y, Gonzalez-Argoti T, Rael CT, Porter J, Mantell JE. HIV Preexposure Prophylaxis Service Delivery Models for Emergency Departments: A Qualitative Study. J Int Assoc Provid AIDS Care. 2025 Jan-Dec;24:23259582251342842. doi: 10.1177/23259582251342842. Epub 2025 May 27. PMID: 40420603; PMCID: PMC12117224.

THIS PROJECT IS: Clinical Laboratory Behavioral Other

THIS PROJECT IS CANCER-RELATED

Please explain Cancer relevance

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THIS PROJECT IS HEART, LUNG & BLOOD- RELATED

Please explain Heart, Lung, Blood relevance

THIS PROJECT INVOLVE RADIOISOTOPES?

THIS PROJECT INVOLVES THE USE OF ANIMALS

PENDING

APPROVED

IACUC PROTOCOL #

THIS PROJECT INVOLVES THE USE OF HUMAN SUBJECTS?

PENDING

APPROVED

IRB PROTOCOL # M Pro2025000691

THIS PROJECT IS SUITABLE FOR:

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

ENTERING FRESHMAN

SOPHOMORES

ALL STUDENTS

THIS PROJECT IS WORK-STUDY: Yes or No

**THIS PROJECT WILL BE POSTED DURING ACADEMIC YEAR
FOR INTERESTED VOLUNTEERS:** Yes or No

WHAT WILL THE STUDENT LEARN FROM THIS EXPERIENCE?

Students participating in an IRB-approved human subjects trial will gain experience that bridges clinical medicine, research ethics, and patient communication. Students will gain a practical understanding of how an emergency department (ED) functions. By working alongside providers, nurses, and research staff, they will observe patient flow, interdisciplinary teamwork, and the fast-pace of an ED. Students will also strengthen their communication skills. Screening patients requires reviewing charts, identifying eligibility criteria, and approaching individuals while they are in the ED for various reasons unrelated to research. Students will learn how to introduce themselves, explain a study clearly and concisely, assess patient understanding, and get informed consent. Engaging with patients from diverse backgrounds will enhance their ability to communicate with empathy, cultural sensitivity, and respect. Overall, this experience provides students with meaningful, hands-on exposure to emergency medicine operations, patient-centered communication, ethical research conduct, and the practical realities of translating research protocols into real-world clinical settings.