

Temporal Relationship of Oral Sex Acts to Receptive Anal Intercourse: Implications for Rectal Microbicide Use

TC-595

Pamina Gorbach¹, Robin Jeffries¹, Robert Weiss¹, Ross Cranston², Jennifer Tom¹, Stephen J. Brown³, John B. Hylton⁴, Marjan Hezareh³, Ed Fuchs⁴, Joelle Brown¹, Peter A. Anton⁵

¹UCLA School of Public Health, Los Angeles, CA, USA; ²Magee-Womens Research Institute, University of Pittsburgh Medical School, Pittsburgh, PA, USA; ³AIDS Research Alliance, Los Angeles, CA, USA; ⁴Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, USA; ⁵Center for HIV Prevention Research, UCLA School of Medicine, Los Angeles, CA, USA

BACKGROUND

The sequence of sexual activities during receptive anal intercourse (RAI), especially timing of oral sexual activities such as rimming, may affect acceptability of rectal microbicides requiring pre-sex application.

METHODS

From October 2006-September 2007 295 subjects from the UCLA U19 IP/CP 0606414 in Los Angeles and Baltimore completed computer-administered self interviews about their sexual behavior. 222 reported RAI in the past year; 136 males and 86 females. Among those 99 males and 53 females reported order of sexual activities at last RAI. Frequencies on the temporal relationships of oral sex, either penile or anal (rimming), relative to RAI are presented; differences by demographics and behaviors were tested using chi-square, t-tests, and univariate logistic regression.

RESULTS

The sample was mostly male (59%), half African-American (55%), half HIV positive (51%), half reporting a main partner, and median age of 44.

Table 1. Demographics for those reporting RAI in the past year (n=222)

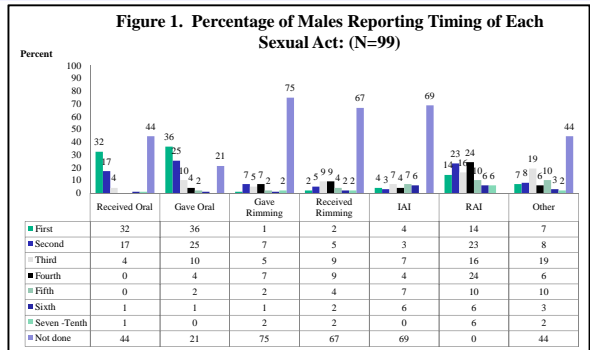
| Variable | N | % |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|
| Ethnicity | | |
| Hispanic | 24 | 11% |
| African American | 124 | 56% |
| White | 51 | 23% |
| Other | 21 | 10% |
| Age Category | | |
| <30 | 20 | 9% |
| 30-40 | 49 | 22% |
| 40-50 | 110 | 50% |
| 50+ | 43 | 19% |
| Gender/HIV Status | | |
| HIV+ M | 93 | 44% |
| HIV+ F | 26 | 12% |
| HIV- M | 38 | 18% |
| HIV- F | 56 | 26% |
| Partner Type | | |
| Main | 99 | 52% |
| Regular | 24 | 13% |
| Friend | 31 | 16% |
| Acquaintance | 14 | 7% |
| One Time | 11 | 6% |
| Unknown | 5 | 3% |
| Trade | 8 | 4% |

222 individuals reported on a last RAI episode. At the time of each episode, several other sex activities were reported occurring (median of 4 acts). Most reported genital-oral sex (males and females 74%); most both giving and receiving. Rimming was reported by 25% of males and 15% of females.

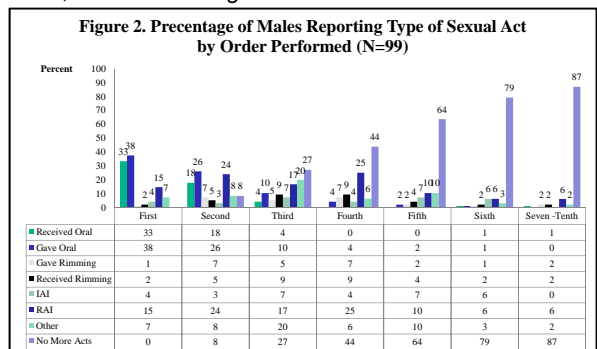
Table 2: Sequence of Rimming and RAI: (n=152)

| | Rimming | | | Percent of Total |
|--------|---------|----------|---------|------------------|
| | Pre RAI | Post RAI | Neither | |
| Male | 23% | 8% | 69% | 65% |
| Female | 26% | 6% | 68% | 35% |
| Total | 24% | 7% | 68% | 100% |

Most who rimmed, did so before RAI, not after.



Among those reporting a sequence of acts during their last RAI episode, RAI and rimming were most frequently reported as the second or fourth act; being rimmed as third and fourth, receptive oral sex most frequently as first or second act; giving oral sex most frequently first and second. There is more variation in the sequence of RAI, IAI and rimming than the other acts.



8% reported only one act. First acts were predominantly reported as oral sex (either giving or receiving). Second act was most often reported as giving oral followed by RAI. Most frequently reported act as third was RAI.

CONCLUSIONS

During receptive anal intercourse (RAI), most men and women also engage in oral sexual activities. Rimming is received both before and after RAI, although predominantly before, introducing a possible barrier to use of rectal microbicides distorting taste perception and requiring application prior to initiation of sexual activities. In formulation of rectal microbicides the effect of characteristics such as taste that may require changes to common sequences of sexual practices associated with RAI should be considered to enhance acceptability.