



# Reasons for Late Presentation among Older MSM in Amsterdam

Maarten Bedert  
GGD Amsterdam/AIGHD  
The H-TEAM

nc hiv

HIV

# Disclosure of speaker's interests



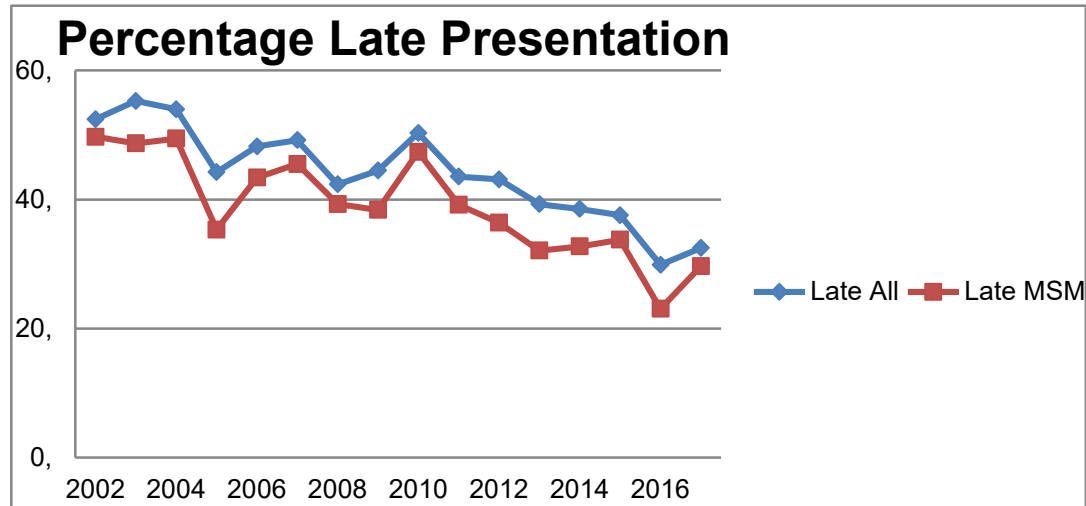
No (potential) conflict of interests	
Relations that could be relevant for the meeting	None

# Reasons for late presentation among older MSM in Amsterdam

- “THE END OF AIDS”
  - Cure trials
  - “HIV is a manageable chronic disease”
  - Effective ART
  - U=U, Treatment as prevention
  - PrEP
- 1 IN 3 IS A LATE PRESENTER...

# Late Presentation in Amsterdam

- Based on CD4 COUNT: 350 cells/ $\mu$ L



# The Research Procedures

- An ongoing **Qualitative** Elicitation Study
- Recruitment at Amsterdam UMC and DC Klinieken
- 13 Interviews with Late Presenters
  - **6 with older MSM**
- 2 HIV Specialist Nurses
- Focus on **motives for testing and reasons for delay**

# Factors influencing Testing Behavior



- **Systemic Factors**
  - Institutional and organisational
- **Health-Related Factors**
  - Individual perception of health
- **Psychosocial Factors**
  - Within the control of the subject

# A Case Study: Paul

- Dutch MSM
- 51 years old
- Highly educated
- Mostly casual contacts/ **Risk Perception**
  - “well, alright, **we did or didn’t do it safely**, it also depended on the other person”
- **Well-informed** about testing/treatment/HIV
- Patient-initiated Test At **GP**
- **HIV diagnosis was no surprise**
  - Confirmation of what he expected

## Why didn't Paul test earlier?



- “If I go back further, my first partner, it was the beginning of HIV, **before there was medication, he died from HIV**”
  - “that should have **deterred from risky behaviour**”
- “in the early 1990s, I met a lot of gay men who said: **I don't want to know, there is a chance that I have it and then there is no way back**”
- “[these experiences] were **like the sword of Damocles** when it comes to sex”



# General Findings

- **Systemic Factors:**
  - GP: not comfortable discussing sex(uality)
  - GGD: waiting times and perceived exclusion by MSM
  - Institutional: missed opportunities and wrong diagnosis by physicians
- **Health Factors:**
  - Absence of physical symptoms
- **Psychosocial Factors:**
  - Fear for stigma
  - Risk minimization
  - Risk acceptance
  - Risk rationalization

## In Conclusion

- Systemic factors (e.g. access to test facilities)
- Health factors (e.g. no symptoms)
- Psychosocial factors (e.g. risk perception, fear)
  
- Need to understand and acknowledge the shared **social history of HIV** among (older) MSM

# H-TEAM Acknowledgements

## Professor Joep Lange



## Partners



## Funding support



# Acknowledgements

- Udi Davidovich (GGD Amsterdam)
- John de Wit (Universiteit Utrecht)
- Godelieve de Bree (AUMC)
- Ward van Bilsen (GGD Amsterdam)
- Ard van Sighem (Stichting SHM)
- Wim Zuilhof (SOA\*aids)