Background

Antibiotic prophylaxis can reduce the risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), but concerns remain about its safety and feasibility of its implementation. We conducted an online survey to quantify current use of and interest in antibiotic prophylaxis among Australian gay and bisexual men.

Methods

From June to December 2018 our survey was promoted through gay community organisations and Melbourne Sexual Health Centre. The survey asked about demographics, sexual history, drug use, use of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), history of STIs, use of antibiotic prophylaxis and attitudes towards antibiotic prophylaxis. We used logistic regression analyses to compare responses from respondents who had used antibiotic prophylaxis, respondents who had not used but were interested, and respondents who were not interested.

Results

A total of 517 survey responses were complete: 68 respondents (13%) had previously used antibiotics to prevent STIs and 323 (63%) expressed interest in using antibiotic prophylaxis. Users of antibiotic prophylaxis reported more STI risk factors and had more bacterial STIs than non-users. However, the use of antibiotic prophylaxis was not independently associated with a higher risk of STI diagnosis.

Disclosure

No significant relationships.