



LGBT HEALTH

## ANAL CYTOLOGY SCREENING AMONG HIV POSITIVE MSM IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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Background: HIV positive men who have sex with men (MSM) are at increased risk of anal cancer. Anal cytology is a basic screening test for anal cancer.

Objective: To evaluate results of anal cytology for purposes of anal cancer screening in high-risk group of HIV infected MSM in the Czech Republic.

Materials and Methods: Anal cytology specimens were collected by blind swabs from anal canal of HIV positive MSM attending Dermatovenereology Department Na Bulovce Hospital, Prague, the Czech Republic from July 2017 to June 2018. Cytology evaluation was performed in a specialized laboratory.

Results: During the one year period, anal cytology examination was done in 111 men enrolled in the study. The age range was from 21 to 66 years of age (mean 34 years). Overall, negative for intraepithelial lesion or malignancy (NILM) result was observed in 37 (33.3 %) patients, atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance (ASCUS) cytology in 28 (25.2 %) patients, low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (LSIL) in 31 (27.9 %) patients and high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (HSIL) only in 5 (4.5 %) of the screened MSM. Ten (9.0 %) patient samples did not have sufficient cellularity for cytology examination. The presence of LSIL or HSIL cytology results were not associated with age, number of sexual partners or length of HIV infection.

Conclusions: LSIL cytology was common among patients in our group, while HSIL cytology was rare result. Performing blind rectal swab may lead to a considerable amount of unevaluable results. Further studies are needed to evaluate risk factors for anal cancer among the HIV positive MSM in the Czech Republic.

