“I Was Offered PrEP at a Party and Told I Was Good for the Weekend”

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Popular HIV specialists Demetre Daskalakis, MD, and David Malebranche, MD, MPH, are back with 14 new videos in their #AskTheHIVDoc series. This time, each short segment focuses on a question regarding the use of Truvada as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV.

One question posed to the doc duo reads, “I was offered PrEP at a party. This guy told me if I took it, I was good for the weekend. Is he right?”

Dr. David’s reply?

“Um, how can I say this? Hell no, he’s not right.”

Dr. David explains that, apart from the issue of taking pills from someone at a party, the fact is that Truvada (tenofovir/emtricitabine) as PrEP “takes a while to get going” so you can’t just pop one pill. (In another post, he explains that it takes about at week of daily dosing to reach max effect.)

Other questions in the series include: What if I miss a dose? Why do I have to see my doc every three months if I’m on PrEP? Does PrEP interact with anti-depressants or alcohol and drugs? And, How do I get PrEP if I don’t have insurance?

The series is part of the Kaiser Family Foundation’s Greater Than AIDS campaign.

In other PrEP news, health officials in Atlanta, which sees high rates of new HIV cases, announced the launch of a no-cost clinic focused on PrEP, making it one of the first in the South to offer the services. As Project Q reports, the clinic will offer free PrEP, medical exams and follow-up appointments thanks to a partnership with Fulton County health officials and Gilead Sciences, the maker of Truvada, the only med currently approved by the FDA as PrEP.

The clinic will focus on reaching three main populations: young men who have sex with men (MSM), HIV-negative people in a relationship with someone who is HIV positive, and women in

high-risk groups.

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