

ASHM 2008: HIV seroconversions in older gay men

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The UK's InSIGHT study initially investigated why men between the ages of 35-44 years accounted for over a third of all new diagnoses of HIV in 2006 produced findings about HIV seroconversion among older gay men and why they had practised unprotected anal intercourse.

John Imrie from the National Centre for HIV Social Research presented the study which showed that older men dealing with bereavement and loss were more likely to be exposed to major relationship and lifestyle changes. In view of these life features for older men, i.e., absence of family, not working, and less physicality, sexual and emotional needs were seen to be unmet. Other factors for adopting riskier behaviour included repeated negative tests over time lowering risk perception, daunting thoughts of growing older alone, the improved prognosis of HIV infection compared to other age related chronic health conditions (leading to reduced perceptions of the seriousness of HIV infection) and mental health issues.

Imrie J. et al, Risk, Realities and HIV Seroconversions in Older Gay Men: Qualitative results from an investigation of seroconversions in gay men who HIV test in England (InSIGHT Study)

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