Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and Types of Rectal Douches Used for Anal Intercourse: Results from an International Survey

Version: 1 Date: 26 October 2013

Reviewer: Janni J Kinsler

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Introduction

1. 2nd paragraph, lines 6-7—Were the studies of rectal douching prevalences among MSM in the US or non-US countries?
2. 2nd paragraph—Authors could add more literature on prevalence of rectal douching in different populations. For example, Kinsler, Galea, et al [Sexually Transmitted Infections, 2013, Feb;89(1)] looked at the prevalence of rectal douching among MSM in Peru.

Methods

1. Statistical Analyses—What analyses were used to explore partnership specific factors and the prevalence of rectal douching for Figure 1?

Discussion

1. Paragraph 1. A more detailed discussion on the implications of the findings is needed. For example, what are the implications of using rectal douching solutions that could potentially be harmful, especially in relationship to Rectal Microbicides?
2. Paragraph 1. The authors state the following: “Because the prevalence of rectal douching before AI was relatively high and the products used may cause damage to the rectal epithelium, the contribution of this practice to the transmission and acquisition of STIs/HIV may be important.” A similar statement was used in the conclusion. This seems to be a very simplistic statement. Could the authors elaborate a little more on the implications of this statement in either the discussion or conclusion section?

Minor Essential Revisions

Introduction

1. 1st paragraph, line 12—Following sentence is missing a comma: “In addition to biologic plausibility, a recent epidemiologic study….
2. 2nd paragraph, line 5—What do the acronyms LGV and HBV stand for?
Discretionary Revisions

Results

1. Did authors conduct any analyses assessing whether type of rectal douche or reasons for rectal douching/enema use differed by region or gender of sex partner? This information could be useful for developing more targeted interventions.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests