

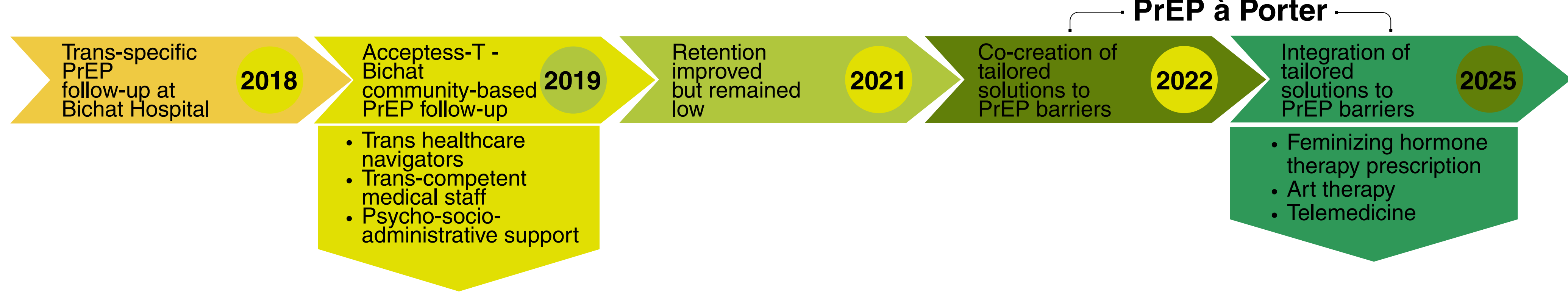
“I truly felt like a woman”: Impact of integrated gender-affirming care on acceptability of PrEP à Porter, a community-based multidisciplinary PrEP implementation strategy for transgender women in Paris

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BACKGROUND

Transgender women (TW) constitute a population historically heavily affected by HIV in France, particularly migrant trans women and sex workers (M-TW-SW). Systemic transphobia and administrative delays in regularization have lead to self-management of health and reduced or foregone medical care (Velter et al., 2021; Cosne, 2023; Chevallier et al., 2025)



Research question: In what ways does the integration of person-centered care and gender-affirming services redefine participants’ perceptions of PrEP follow-up and their engagement?

METHODS

PrEP à Porter is a descriptive, adaptive, single-arm, single-center, national study to improve PrEP retention for TW. In phase 1 participants provide possible recommendations to implement during phase 2.

- For this analysis:
- Community-based qualitative study
 - 3 FG (N=21) and 5 interviews
 - Mostly Latin American TGW; mostly SW
 - Data were audio-recorded, transcribed, anonymized, and analyzed thematically

RESULTS

SUCCESS FACTORS

- Trans-competent staff → Holistic health and tackling social determinants of health
- Feminizing hormone therapy prescription/Gynecologist → gender identity acknowledgment and resource hub for holistic health
- Trans healthcare navigator → Systemic Trust in healthcare structures
- Combining PrEP and hormone replacement therapy→ Logistical optimization
- Art therapy and FG → Community belonging

UNMET NEEDS

- Awareness Gap : not everyone is aware about the activities
- Framing Gap : a few participants struggled to understand the activities’ purpose
- Transphobia still persists within the PrEP circuit if blood tests are outsourced and made by private labs
- Other aspects of trans health would need to be addressed (e.g. silicone)



About the gynecologist:

You realize you've found a doctor made for you, who listens to you, who understands you, what your needs are as a trans woman, and the changes you want to make in your life. She talks to you directly about the hormones, the right hormones, the ones that work best, it doesn't give you as much, but there will be significant changes. She removes those paradigms and hypothetical questions you have about what's true and what's false, because some people have different knowledge about the hormones. She clears up your doubts, and that's important.

Denise

About art therapy:

(...) A common history is created, based on listening. We're there for each other, each one is there for the other. It's not in a context of judgment, of competition that tells you I'm prettier, I have longer hair, I have a bigger butt. No, it's not like that. I have a bigger butt, it tires me out. I have the biggest butt, it tires me out. When I sleep at night, this is how I suffer. I have the biggest breasts, this is what I experience with these bigger breasts. I have small breasts, this is what I experience with small breasts. I have facial hair, this is how I experience it. That's it. There is an experience that we share, that we communicate. And each experience is a gift, a jewel.

About the Hospital expertise on trans issues:

They manage, of course, because of the support from the association. There are people from Acceptess-T on site. There are mediators. Yes, when I see people from the association, I'm reassured because I know it's thanks to the hard work of this association that the care has been possible in better conditions. That's incredibly important.

Irina

Harmony

CONCLUSIONS

- Importance of addressing the **social determinants of health** rather than just clinical outcomes.
- Capacity Building:** gender-inclusive training for medical staff brings trust in healthcare and may directly increase patient retention and follow-up adherence.
- Multidisciplinary Scaling:** Future implementation requires a network of gender-sensitive specialists (e.g. dermatologist) integrated into PrEP follow-up.
- Structural Adaptation:** decentralizing PrEP follow-up through general practitioners and external pharmacies and private laboratories needs to be paired with training on trans-specific needs.



We thank all the women who agreed to participate in the study and their activities. A special thanks also goes to the trans health navigators who worked on this project.