

Taking combination antiretroviral therapy is associated with less sexual risk with casual partners

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Background

- Use of combination antiretroviral therapy
 - shown to reduce viral load.
 - Associated with less unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners
 - Associated with fewer casual partners
- Stephenson, Imrie, Davis et al. in Sexually Transmitted Infections, Feb 2003

Gay Community Periodic Surveys

- Cross-sectional surveys conducted annually in Sydney, Melbourne, Queensland
- Recruitment at major gay carnival events, gay social venues, sex-on-premises venues and sexual health clinics
- Anonymous self-complete questionnaires

Gay Community Periodic Surveys

- 6115 completed questionnaires in 2003
- 621 HIV positive men
- Unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners (UAIC)
 - Any UAIC 48% (n = 299)
 - No UAIC 52% (n = 322)

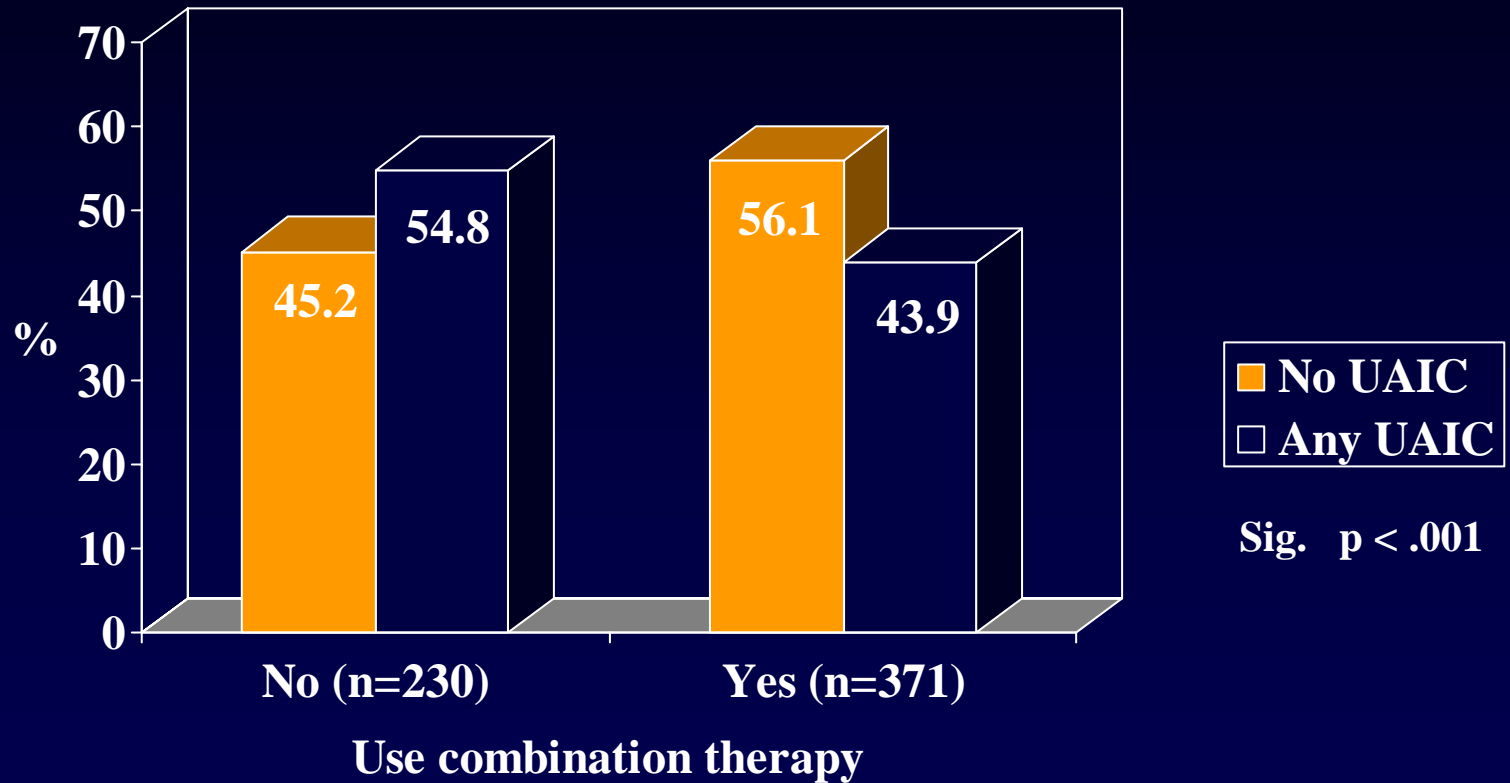
Gay Community Periodic Surveys

- Used combination antiretroviral therapy (ART)
 - Yes 61.7% No 38.3% N = 601
- Age
 - Mean = 39.7 years
 - SD 8.23 Range = 71 (19 – 90)
 - Using ART 41.1 years Not Using ART 37.8 years
- Had a regular partner
 - Yes 57.5% No 42.5% N = 621

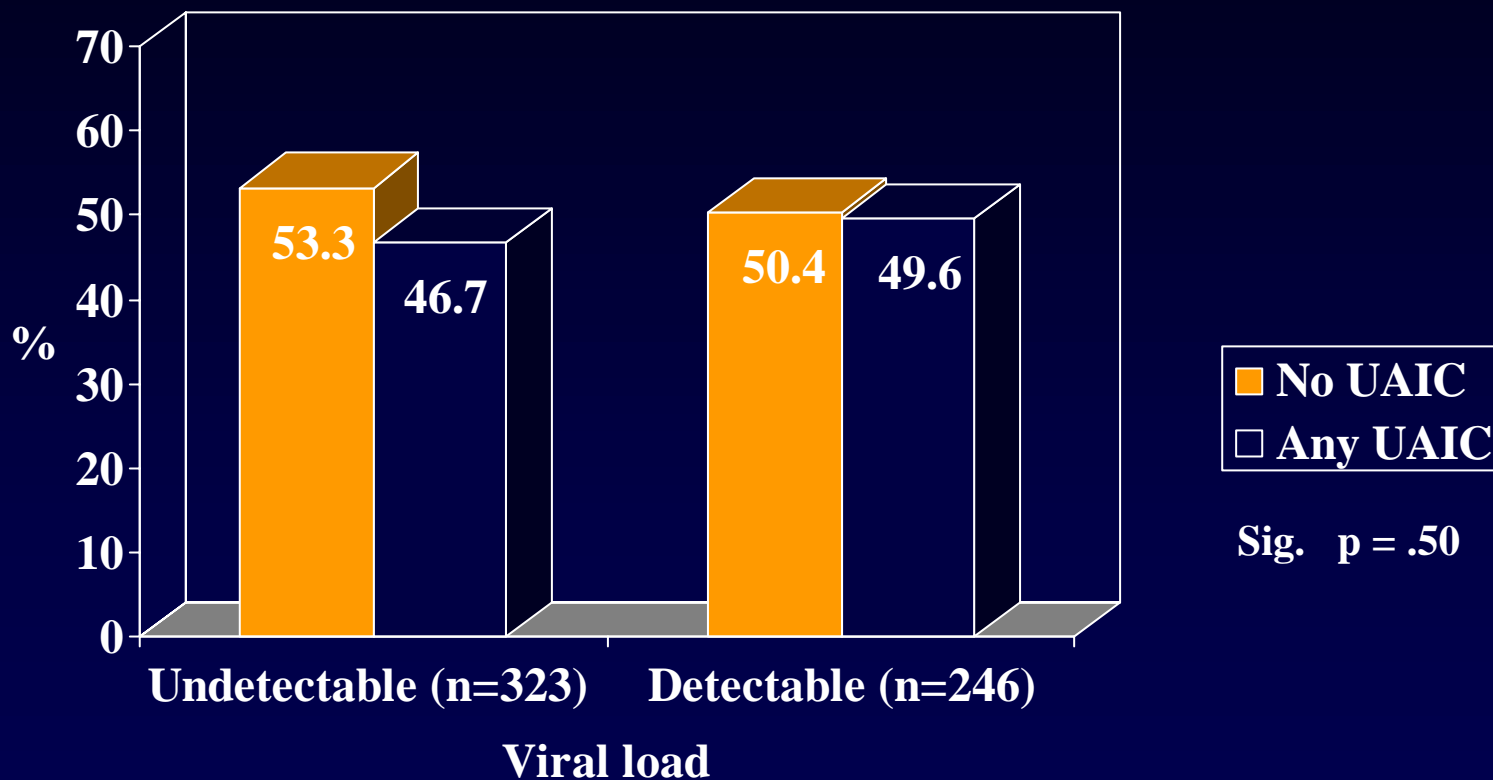
Associations with UAIC?

- Taking antiretroviral therapy
- Viral load
- Number of sex partners
- Self-rated health
- Age
- Having a regular partner

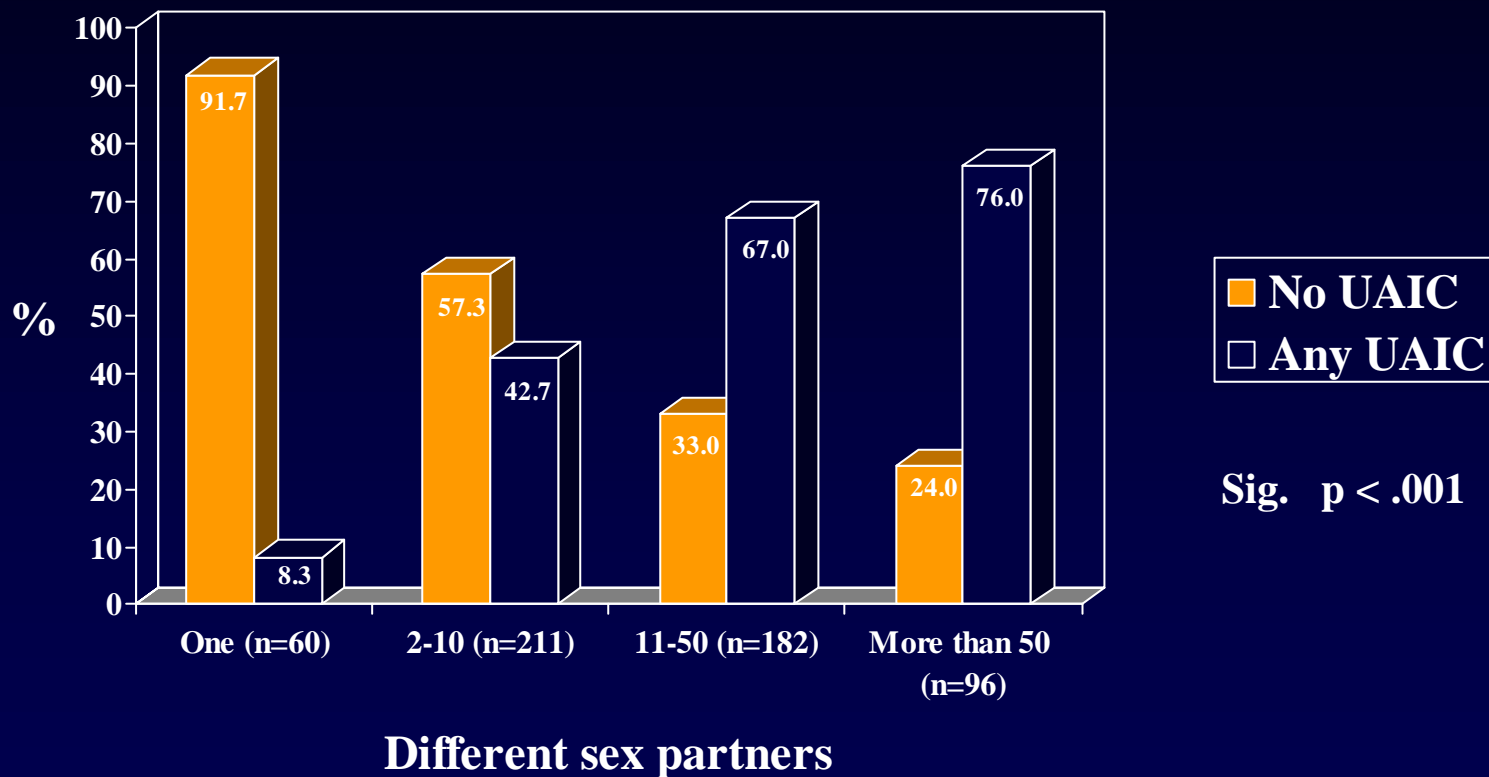
Use of combination antiretroviral therapy and UAIC



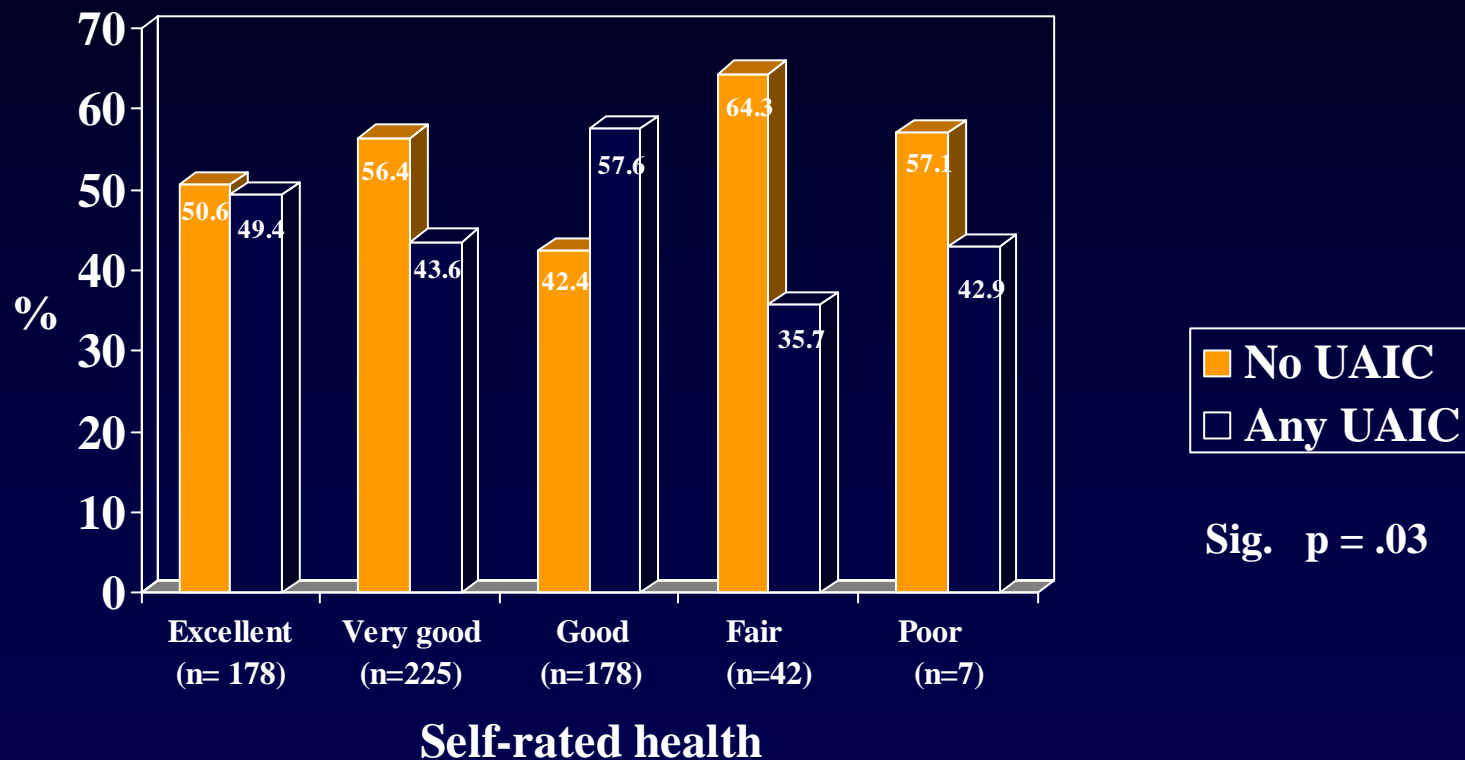
Viral load and UAIC



Number of different sex partners and UAIC



Self-rated health and UAIC



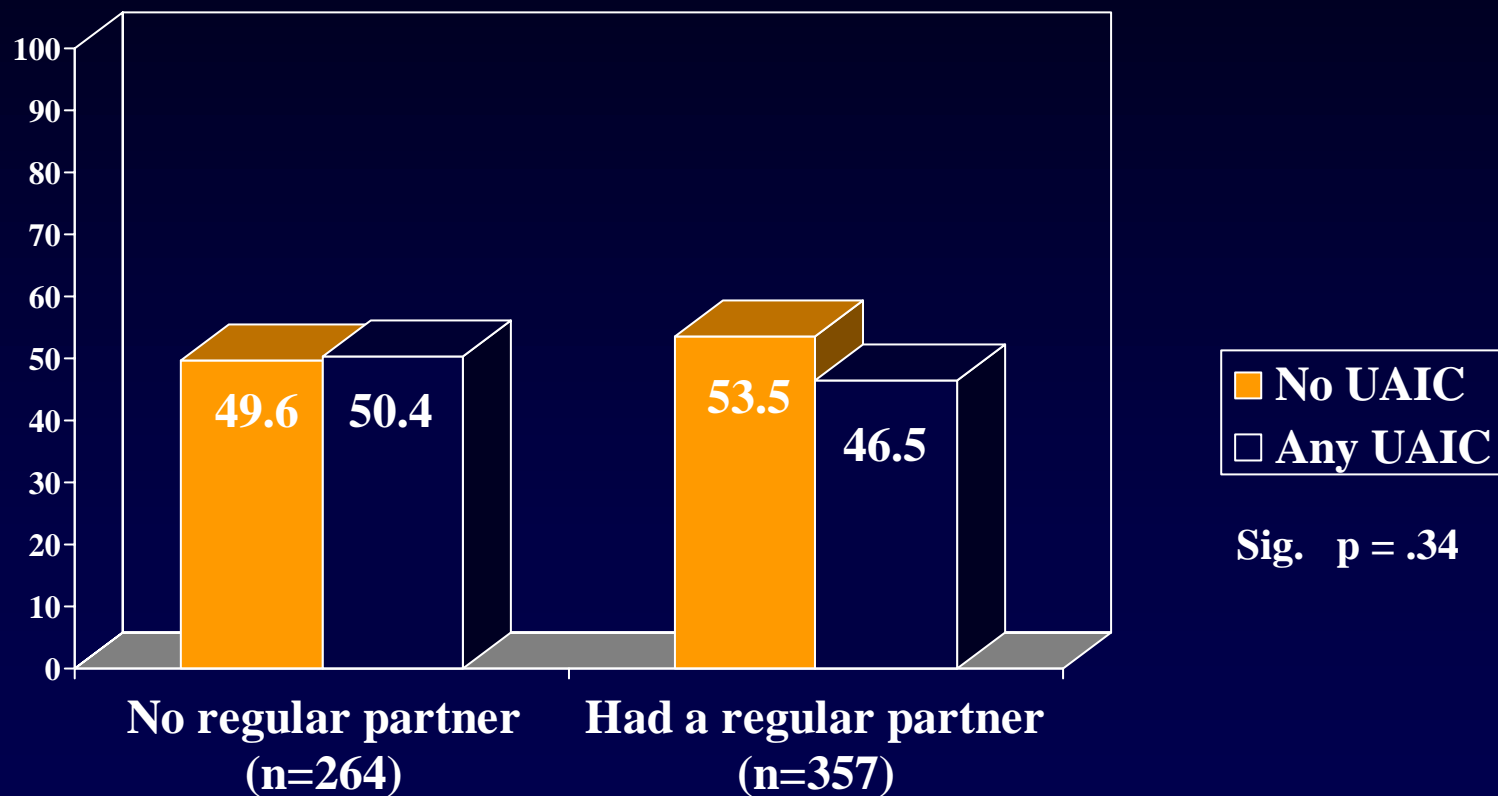
Age and UAIC

	Mean	S.D.	Range
No UAIC	40.1	7.81	41 (22-63)
Any UAIC	39.4	8.66	71 (19-90)

F = 1.27

P = .26

Regular partner and UAIC



Reduced logistic regression model

Outcome = any UAIC

	B	Sig	OR	CI 95%
Use ART	-.452	.018	.636	.44 - .93
No. sex partners	.941	<.001	2.56	2.12 - 3.10
Health	.190	.058	1.21	.99 - 1.47

Final logistic regression model

Outcome = any UAIC

	B	Sig	OR	CI 95%
Use ART	-.430	.023	.651	.45 - .94
No. sex partners	.912	<.001	2.49	2.07 - 3.00

Conclusions

- The use of combination antiretroviral therapy appears to be associated with lower risk behaviour in anal intercourse with casual partners
- A higher number of casual partners associated with increased risk behaviour
- Viral load, health, age or having a regular partner unrelated to risk.

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