Penicilllinase-producing gonococci in the Netherlands

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In the Netherlands, the proportion of these infections contracted outside the country is becoming lower (1976-77, 85%; 1978, 20%; and 1979, 11%) indicating that these strains have become endemic.

Many patients infected in the Netherlands contracted the disease in Amsterdam (1978, 54%; 1979, 58%). The Hague follows with 13% in 1978 and 17% in 1979.

Contact tracing was often unsuccessful; many male patients were infected by prostitutes who were untraceable afterwards.

From the results of a survey carried out by Mr B van Klinger (Laboratory for Chemotherapy of the RIV), among a number of regional public health laboratories, it is estimated that PPNG strains constitute about 2-3% of all circulating gonococcal strains in the country.

β-lactamase-producing gonococci contain a plasmid which codes for β-lactamase production, such as the “Asian” 4·5 Md and the “African” 3·3 Md plasmids. Van Klinger et al. have found that virtually all of the PPNG isolates in 1978 in the Netherlands were found to carry the Asian plasmid. It seems, according to van Klinger, that this plasmid survives more successfully than the African plasmid.

References


TABLE Number of infections with β-lactamase-producing N gonorrhoeae by sex (Dutch and foreigners) between 1976 and 1979.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dutch M</th>
<th>Dutch F</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Foreigners M</th>
<th>Foreigners F</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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