Secondly, a travel history is important. The cases identified in the reports from Manchester and Liverpool were associated with travel to countries where chancroid is endemic. If lessons are to be learnt from recent experience in the United States where there was a significant association between outbreaks of syphilis, chancroid, and the use of crack cocaine, a high index of suspicion for chancroid is justified for genital ulcers in Afro-Caribbeans given their connection in the Bristol syphilis outbreak and the known endemity of both syphilis and chancroid in the Caribbean. Also, travellers or recent immigrants with genital ulcers from southern African countries, where the United Kingdom still has close Commonwealth ties, should be considered to be at risk of chancroid, particularly if there is a history of unprotected commercial sex.

Because of its importance in facilitating heterosexual HIV transmission, opportunities to improve surveillance for chancroid should be sought. The KC 60 coding system is due to undergo revision soon and it would surely not be a retrograde step to revert to the pre-1989 system whereby chancroid was reported under the C1 coding, LGV as C2, and Donovanosis as C3. Ideally, patients with chancroid and their sexual contacts are best treated at their first attendance. Currently the most cost effective options are either a single dose of ciprofloxacin 500 mg or erythromycin 500 mg three times daily for 7 days. However, if it is thought prudent to try and confirm the diagnosis of chancroid by culture, it may be necessary to bring patients back when suitable culture media are available.

NIGEL O'FARRELL

The COPE Report 1999

Hitherto, there has been a lack of a coordinated approach by editors of scientific and medical journals to breaches of research and publication ethics. The publication in this issue of the guidelines on good publication practice developed by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) is therefore most welcome. Consensus has been reached on what constitutes good research and the guidelines on study design, ethical approval, and data analysis are sensible and clear. In any case, all researchers should already follow these principles. For many years, there has been controversy on authorship, and guidance is given on avoidance of conflict over this issue. The duty of all authors to take public responsibility for the content of their paper is rightly emphasised. Conflicts of interest are not confined to the authors of papers, and editors and reviewers must ensure that any relevant conflict of interest is disclosed; again sound guidance is given in the report. Guidelines are also available on peer review and greater transparency by journals of their review, selection, and appeal processes is suggested. Ultimately, this can only benefit authors. Plagiarism and redundant publication are issues with which editors are already concerned and, in some cases, these unethical practices can be difficult to identify. Advice to authors on how to avoid possible misconduct is given in the report. Most editors are well aware of their duties, but it is good to see these defined here. The mass media are becoming much more concerned with biomedical research, and the guidelines on media relations are timely.

Unfortunately, breaches of research and publication ethics occur, and there have been several recent, celebrated cases. It is clear that the authors of the report have given much thought to some of the thorny issues surrounding the investigation of suspected breaches, and their guidance to editors is very clear. The mechanism for implementation of the guidelines for dealing with serious misconduct, however, is not entirely clear. For example, there does not appear to be a forum for the author(s) suspected of misconduct to rescind the allegations. With the possible grave consequences of an investigation of this nature, future refinements to the guidelines may be required.

As a former editor of the journal, I would have greatly appreciated access to guidelines such as these when considering difficult issues, and I feel that all editors should endorse this report.

ALEXANDRA McMILLAN

journal ombudsman
Committee on Publication Ethics: the COPE Report 1999

Guidelines on good publication practice

Why the guidelines were developed
COPE was founded in 1997 to address breaches of research and publication ethics. A voluntary body providing a discussion forum and advice for scientific editors, it aims to find practical ways of dealing with the issues, and to develop good practice.

We thought it essential to attempt to define best practice in the ethics of scientific publishing. These guidelines should be useful for authors, editors, editorial board members, readers, owners of journals, and publishers.

Intellectual honesty should be actively encouraged in all medical and scientific courses of study, and used to inform publication ethics and prevent misconduct. It is with that in mind that these guidelines have been produced.

Details of other guidelines on the ethics of research and published codes of conduct are listed in the Appendix.

How the guidelines were developed
The guidelines were developed from a preliminary version drafted by individual members of the committee, which was then submitted to extensive consultation. They address: study design and ethical approval, data analysis, authorship, conflict of interests, the peer review process, redundant publication, plagiarism, duties of editors, media relations, advertising, and how to deal with misconduct.

What they aim to do
These guidelines are intended to be advisory rather than prescriptive, and to evolve over time. We hope that they will be disseminated widely, endorsed by editors, and refined by those who use them.

1 Study design and ethical approval
2 Data analysis
3 Authorship
4 Conflicts of interest
5 Peer review
6 Redundant publication
7 Plagiarism
8 Duties of editors
9 Media relations
10 Advertising

Dealing with misconduct
Appendix

Acknowledgement
The following are gratefully acknowledged for their contribution to the drafting of these guidelines: Philip Fulford (Coordinator), Professor Michael Doherty, Ms Jane Smith, Dr Richard Smith, Dr Fiona Godlee, Dr Peter Wilmshurst, Dr Richard Horton, Professor Michael Farthing, Other members of COPE, Delegates to the meeting on April 27 1999, other corresponding editors.

1 Study design and ethical approval

Definition
Good research should be well justified, well planned, appropriately designed, and ethically approved. To conduct research to a lower standard may constitute misconduct.

Action
1 Laboratory and clinical research should be driven by protocol; pilot studies should have a written rationale.
2 Research protocols should seek to answer specific questions, rather than just collect data.
3 Protocols must be carefully agreed by all contributors and collaborators, including, if appropriate, the participants.
4 The final protocol should form part of the research record.
5 Early agreement on the precise roles of the contributors and collaborators, and on matters of authorship and publication, is advised.
6 Statistical issues should be considered early in study design, including power calculations, to ensure there are neither too few nor too many participants.
7 Formal and documented ethical approval from an appropriately constituted research ethics committee is required for all studies involving people, medical records, and anonymised human tissues.
8 Use of human tissues in research should conform to the highest ethical standards, such as those recommended by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics.
9 Fully informed consent should always be sought. It may not always be possible, however, and in such circumstances, an appropriately constituted research ethics committee should decide if this is ethically acceptable.
10 When participants are unable to give fully informed consent, research should follow international guidelines, such as those of the Council for International Organisations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS).
11 Animal experiments require full compliance with local, national, ethical, and regulatory principles, and local licensing arrangements. International standards vary.
12 Formal supervision, usually the responsibility of the principal investigator, should be provided for all research projects: this must include quality control, and the frequent review and long term retention (may be up to 15 years) of all records and primary outputs.

2 Data analysis

Definition
Data should be appropriately analysed, but inappropriate analysis does not necessarily amount to misconduct. Fabrication and falsification of data do constitute misconduct.

Action
1 All sources and methods used to obtain and analyse data, including any electronic pre-processing, should be fully disclosed; detailed explanations should be provided for any exclusions.
2 Methods of analysis must be explained in detail, and referenced, if they are not in common use.
3 The post hoc analysis of subgroups is acceptable, as long as this is disclosed. Failure to disclose that the analysis was post hoc is unacceptable.
4 The discussion section of a paper should mention any issues of bias which have been considered, and explain how they have been dealt with in the design and interpretation of the study.

3 Authorship

Definition
There is no universally agreed definition of authorship, although attempts have been made (see Appendix). As a minimum, authors should take responsibility for a particular section of the study.
Action

1 The award of authorship should balance intellectual contributions to the conception, design, analysis and writing of the study against the collection of data and other routine work. If there is no task that can reasonably be attributed to a particular individual, then that individual should not be credited with authorship.

2 To avoid disputes over attribution of academic credit, it is helpful to decide early on in the planning of a research project who will be credited as authors, as contributors, and who will be acknowledged.

3 All authors must take public responsibility for the content of their paper. The multidisciplinary nature of much research can make this difficult, but this can be resolved by the disclosure of individual contributions.

4 Careful reading of the target journal’s “Advice to authors” is advised, in the light of current uncertainties.

4 Conflicts of interest

Definition

Conflicts of interest comprise those which may not be fully apparent and which may influence the judgment of author, reviewers, and editors.

They have been described as those which, when revealed later, would make a reasonable reader feel misled or deceived.

They may be personal, commercial, political, academic or financial.

“Financial” interests may include employment, research funding, stock or share ownership, payment for lectures or travel, consultancies and company support for staff.

Action

1 Such interests, where relevant, must be declared to editors by researchers, authors, and reviewers.

2 Editors should also disclose relevant conflicts of interest to their readers. If in doubt, disclose. Sometimes editors may need to withdraw from the review and selection process for the relevant submission.

5 Peer review

Definition

Peer reviewers are external experts chosen by editors to provide written opinions, with the aim of improving the study.

Working methods vary from journal to journal, but some use open procedures in which the name of the reviewer is disclosed, together with the full or “edited” report.

Action

1 Suggestions from authors as to who might act as reviewers are often useful, but there should be no obligation on editors to use those suggested.

2 The duty of confidentiality in the assessment of a manuscript must be maintained by expert reviewers, and this extends to reviewers’ colleagues who may be asked (with the editor’s permission) to give opinions on specific sections.

3 The submitted manuscript should not be retained or copied.

4 Reviewers and editors should not make any use of the data, arguments, or interpretations, unless they have the authors’ permission.

5 Reviewers should provide speedy, accurate, courteous, unbiased and justifiable reports.

6 If reviewers suspect misconduct, they should write in confidence to the editor.

7 Journals should publish accurate descriptions of their peer review, selection, and appeals processes.

8 Journals should also provide regular audits of their acceptance rates and publication times.

6 Redundant publication

Definition

Redundant publication occurs when two or more papers, without full cross reference, share the same hypothesis, data, discussion points, or conclusions.

Action

1 Published studies do not need to be repeated unless further confirmation is required.

2 Previous publication of an abstract during the proceedings of meetings does not preclude subsequent submission for publication, but full disclosure should be made at the time of submission.

3 Re-publication of a paper in another language is acceptable, provided that there is full and prominent disclosure of its original source at the time of submission.

4 At the time of submission, authors should disclose details of related papers, even if in a different language, and similar papers in press.

7 Plagiarism

Definition

Plagiarism ranges from the unreferenced use of others’ published and unpublished ideas, including research grant applications to submission under “new” authorship of a complete paper, sometimes in a different language.

It may occur at any stage of planning, research, writing, or publication: it applies to print and electronic versions.

Action

1 All sources should be disclosed, and if large amounts of other people’s written or illustrative material is to be used, permission must be sought.

8 Duties of editors

Definition

Editors are the stewards of journals. They usually take over their journal from the previous editor(s) and always want to hand over the journal in good shape.

Most editors provide direction for the journal and build a strong management team. They must consider and balance the interests of many constituents, including readers, authors, staff, owners, editorial board members, advertisers and the media.

Action

1 Editors’ decisions to accept or reject a paper for publication should be based only on the paper’s importance, originality, and clarity, and the study’s relevance to the remit of the journal.

2 Studies that challenge previous work published in the journal should be given an especially sympathetic hearing.

3 Studies reporting negative results should not be excluded.

4 All original studies should be peer reviewed before publication, taking into full account possible bias due to related or conflicting interests.

5 Editors must treat all submitted papers as confidential.

6 When a published paper is subsequently found to contain major flaws, editors must accept responsibility for correcting the record promptly and promptly.

9 Media relations

Definition

Medical research findings are of increasing interest to the print and broadcast media.

Journalists may attend scientific meetings at which preliminary research findings are presented, leading to their premature publication in the mass media.
Editors should not simply reject papers that raise questions of misconduct. They are ethically obliged to pursue the case. However, knowing how to conduct investigations and respond to possible cases of misconduct is difficult.

COPE is always willing to advise, but for legal reasons, can only advise on anonymised cases. It is for the editor to decide what action to take.

Authors should be given the opportunity to respond to any charge of minor misconduct. If convinced of wrongdoing, editors may wish to adopt some of the sanctions outlined below.

Sanctions
Sanctions may be applied separately or combined. The following are ranked in approximate order of severity:

1 A letter of explanation (and education) to the authors, where there appears to be a genuine misunderstanding of principles.
2 A letter of reprimand and warning as to future conduct.
3 A formal letter to the relevant head of institution or funding body.
4 Publication of a notice of redundant publication or plagiarism.
5 An editorial giving full details of the misconduct.
6 Refusal to accept future submissions from the individual, unit, or institution responsible for the misconduct, for a stated period.
7 Formal withdrawal or retraction of the paper from the scientific literature, informing other editors and the indexing authorities.
8 Reporting the case to the General Medical Council, or other such authority or organisation which can investigate and act with due process.

Appendix


ABPI fact sheets and guidance notes:


*Relationship between the medical profession and the pharmaceutical industry*, June 1994.


*Patient information and consents for clinical trials*, May 1997.


General Medical Council. *Good medical practice guidelines series*:


*Confidentiality*, October 1995.


Committee on Publication Ethics: the COPE Report 1999

Alexandra McMillan

Sex Transm Infect 2000 76: 68-72
doi: 10.1136/sti.76.2.68

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://sti.bmj.com/content/76/2/68

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Carbamazepine in Reiter’s syndrome

EDITOR,—A psoriatic spectrum with Reiter’s syndrome as the most severe manifestation infected individuals. Carbamazepine in Reiter’s syndrome is associated with a poor response and increased morbidity. We describe a case where carbamazepine showed an excellent response in an HIV infected patient with Reiter’s syndrome.

A 30 year old married man presented with erythematous papules and plaques of 2 months’ duration covered with hard limpet-like scales on face, body, and both extremities (Fig 1). Fingers and soles showed keratoderma blenorrhagicum and subungual hyperkeratosis with distal onycholysis. Both knees and wrists had painful swelling with restriction of movements. With this clinical presentation Reiter’s syndrome was inferred. All routine investigations were normal except a raised erythrocyte sedimentation rate of 100 mm in the first hour. x Rays of the affected joints were normal. ELISA for HIV-1 and HIV-2 was positive with two kits (Immunocomb, Tri-dot) and confirmed with western blotting technique (Specialty Ranbaxy Limited). The absolute helper T lymphocyte count was 435 cells x10^3/. Flow cytometry of B27 and rheumatoid factor were negative. The patient was commenced on prednisolone by mouth 60 mg daily and indomethacin by mouth 25 mg three times daily without any concomitant antitretiroviral therapy. New erythematous papules and plaques appeared with no relief in joint pain and swelling.

In seeking an effective treatment, we seren-dipitously came across the efficacy of carbamazepine in an HIV infected patient with psoriatic erythroderma. We started carbamazepine 200 mg daily in two divided doses in addition to above. The erythema cleared rapidly within 7 days. To confirm the effect of carbamazepine, it was stopped. New lesions similar to the old ones appeared within 3–4 days. Carbamazepine was then reintroduced in the same dose. Erythema cleared again within 7 days followed by scaling and joint swelling and pain. New lesions stopped appearing. Prednisolone was then tapered off rapidly and analgesics were stopped. Carbamazepine was continued in the same dose for 6 months. On follow up at 1 year, the patient showed no recurrence of skin lesions and synovitis, no change in liver and renal function tests, with no further deterioration in his overall health and no opportunistic infections.

It has been proposed that in genetically predisposed people, the release of neuropeptides like substance P, calcitonin gene related peptide, vasoactive intestinal peptide, and the inflammatory leucotriene B4 from cutaneous sensory nerves causes local inflammatory responses that trigger psoriasis. Stimulated mast cells secrete a number of proinflammatory cytokines and proteases that act similarly.

Carbamazepine significantly inhibits the uptake of noradrenaline and blocks a cyclic AMP mediated calcium influx that is associated with neuropeptide release and control of a slow potassium current.

The rapid clearing of erythema, secondary to raised levels of neuropeptides, with carbamazepine may have been mediated through inhibition of these neuropeptides and by inhibition of uptake of noradrenaline. The exacerbation and subsequent resolution of lesions on withdrawal and reinstitution of carbamazepine respectively proves its efficacy in our patient. Also, the clinical remission maintained for 1 year after stopping carbamazepine and commencement of antitretiroviral therapy suggests its therapeutic role in Reiter’s syndrome. The therapeutic response seen in our patient conforms to that seen in the HIV-1 positive patient of Smith et al.

This apparent success adds carbamazepine to the armamentarium against Reiter’s syn-drome in an HIV infected patient. This is the first reported case and an evaluation of long term carbamazepine therapy is warranted.

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Accepted for publication 20 March 2000

Condoms and warts

EDITOR,—Wein et al should be applauded for their attempt to address the key question of whether or not condoms protect people from genital warts. However, some of the major study variables need clarification, as they did not match up with my knowledge of the Sydney Sexual Health Centre (SSHC) database.

The article discussed the issue of “acquisition of genital warts” and was presented as an incidence study. Cases were defined as: “All patients with a new diagnosis of macroscopic genital warts who attended SSHC [in 1996].” However, many of these patients had been previously diagnosed with genital warts elsewhere while others had recurrent lesions. In Australia, most genital warts are managed by general practitioners. Consequently, the experience of specialist services is biased towards recurrent and difficult cases. “New diagnosis” in this situation means new to the clinic but not necessarily new to the patient. This means that the main outcome measure was a mixture of incident, prevalent, and recurrent cases, with the possibility that the warts may have affected the behaviour of many of the study subjects.

The SSHC database does document whether a person has previously been diagnosed with HPV infection. To me, the study would have had more validity if patients with a history had been excluded.

The diagnostic grouping for warts at SSHC does not distinguish between genital and anal lesions. The readers of the journal need to know that many of these male “genital” cases would have been homosexually active men with anal warts. This is important as risk factors for penile and anal warts may differ, potentially confusing the results of the present study.

Finally, the referent group in the table describing condom use deemed as “Not applicable, no sex” should have been more accurately described as “No vaginal or anal sex in the previous 3 months.” Many of these people would have practised oral sex or other sexual acts during those 3 months. Others may have ceased practising vaginal or anal intercourse up to 3 months earlier because of their persistent or recurrent warts.

Large relational quality assured clinical databases can be powerful tools for health service evaluation, surveillance, and the generation of research questions. It may be prudent for researchers to engage the people responsible for designing and maintaining those databases to minimise errors of interpretation.

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Accepted for publication 20 March 2000

Reply

EDITOR,—We are grateful to Dr Dayan for her helpful and constructive comments. The major criticism of our paper relates to the selection of cases, and the possible inclusion
Photosensitivity reaction to efavirenz

EDITOR,—The non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI) efavirenz is a recent addition to the armamentarium available to physicians in the treatment of HIV infection. However, at present the known side effect profile of this new agent is still in its infancy. We would like to report a case of photosensitivity associated with efavirenz.

A 27 year old white homosexual man was commenced on combiniv (zidovudine/lamivudine) and efavirenz in March of 1999. One month later he reported that he was well and had no major side effects associated with his new combination. However, 4 weeks further into treatment he represented with an itchy rash affecting his arms and hands. On examination there was a maculopapular rash over the affected area but there was no oral ulceration, conjunctivitis, or fever. A drug reaction was diagnosed and he was prescribed antihistamines and asked to continue with his medication. One week later the rash had subsided. Then having spent a day outside in the sun he had a florid recurrence of the rash over the exposed areas (arms, back of neck, face, and ears). The rash was signifi-
cantly worse over his elbows where there was obvious blistersing and oedema. His medication was stopped and 3 weeks later the rash had completely resolved. Hepatitis C antibody positive in June 1997. In March 1998 his viral load was 356 790 copies/ml (Roche PCR) and his CD 4 count was 512 x 10^3 cells/l, he was commenced on dual antiretroviral therapy. (dose escalation at 2 weeks to concomitant treatment.

The presence of visual symptoms at diagnosis of CMV retinitis was predictive of the development of moderate visual loss (relative risk 2.1, 95% confidence interval 1.1–4.2). Fifty eight of 138 patients (42%) with visual symptoms at diagnosis developed moderate visual loss, compared with 16 of 64 patients (25%) who were asymptomatic at diagnosis (p=0.02). The presence of visual symptoms at diagnosis was not predictive of the development of severe visual loss, or early death (p=0.2). Other factors measured at diagnosis of CMV retinitis included the patients’ age, CD4 count, weight, visual acuity, and the presence of any previous AIDS defining condition. None of these was associated with the development of visual loss or early death (p>0.1).

The advent of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) has resulted in a reduction in the incidence of new diagnoses of opportunistic infections. Prolonged survival times with CMV retinitis have been demonstrated in patients who achieve immunological recovery with HAART.1 The ability to predict those patients who are at highest risk of visual loss may assist in advising those who may reasonably cease maintenance therapy for CMV retinitis following immune restoration. An understanding of the natural history of CMV retinitis in the pre-HAART years remains important in managing patients who are failing HAART.

The only factor measurable at diagnosis of CMV retinitis that was predictive of outcome was the presence of visual symptoms. The use of routine ophthalmological screening in HIV infected individuals with low CD4 counts amounts to detect CMV retinitis before visual symptoms occur. It is possible that visual loss may be prevented by detecting disease before retinal damage occurs. A prospective evaluation is needed to confirm this finding.

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HIV associated cytomegalovirus retinitis in Melbourne, Australia

EDITOR,—We report the results of a 12 year review of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) associated cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis in Melbourne, Australia.

We conducted a retrospective review of all HIV infected patients diagnosed with CMV retinitis at Fairfield Hospital and the Alfred Hospital between 1984 and 1996, aiming to identify factors at diagnosis of CMV retinitis which were predictive of outcome. Both hos-
pitals had the same protocol for the treatment of CMV retinitis and employed 3 monthly ophthalmological screening of all HIV in-
fected patients with CD4 counts of less than 50 x10^3.

The study outcomes were visual loss and death. Moderate visual loss was defined as a visual acuity of less than 6/12 in the better eye, and severe visual loss as visual acuity of less than 6/60 in the better eye (this is legal blindness in Australia).

CMV retinitis was diagnosed in 212 of 2818 patients (16.5%) with AIDS over the study period. As of June 1998, 193 (93%) had died, at a median time of 36 weeks (range 0–192) from CMV diagnosis. Seventy four patients (35%) developed moderate visual loss at a median time of 23 weeks (range 0–163) and 30 patients (14%) developed severe visual loss at a median time of 35 weeks (range 0–120) from diagnosis of CMV retinitis.

The ability to predict those patients who are at highest risk of visual loss may assist in advising those who may reasonably cease maintenance therapy for CMV retinitis following immune restoration. An understanding of the natural history of CMV retinitis in the pre-HAART years remains important in managing patients who are failing HAART.

The only factor measurable at diagnosis of CMV retinitis that was predictive of outcome was the presence of visual symptoms. The use of routine ophthalmological screening in HIV infected individuals with low CD4 counts amounts to detect CMV retinitis before visual symptoms occur. It is possible that visual loss may be prevented by detecting disease before retinal damage occurs. A prospective evaluation is needed to confirm this finding.

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Azithromycin vs oxytetracycline for the treatment of non-specific urethritis

EDITOR,—Single dose azithromycin 1 g rather than multidose tetracyclines or oxytetracycline over several days for the treatment of chlamydial urethritis is becoming more widespread as patient acceptability and improved compliance outweigh cost considerations. However, in men, treatment is often initiated on the basis of evidence of urethritis before the chlamydial result is available. Relatively few studies report the efficacy of azithromycin in the treatment of nongonococcal non-chlamydial urethritis (NSU), but recently published evidence-based guidelines for the management of NSU recommend either doxycline 100 mg twice daily for 7 days or azithromycin 1 g immediately.

In this genitourinary medicine clinic azithromycin became first line treatment for all proved or suspected chlamydial infections from 1 April 1998. This retrospective study assessed the efficacy of azithromycin for the treatment of NSU compared with oxytetracycline 250 mg four times daily for 7 days, the previous first line treatment regimen for men with microscopic urethritis in whom no Gram negative diplococci were evident.

NSU was defined as the presence of at least 5 polymorphonuclear leukocytes (PMNL) in five or more fields on microscopy of a urethral swab immediately after direct plating onto modified New York culture medium and negative chlamydial screen on ELISA testing (Syva) of a urethral swab. "Cure" was defined as either resolution of symptoms or clearing of previously positive two glass urine. A repeat urethral smear was not examined routinely.

"Treatment failure" was defined as persistent positive two glass urine test, with oxytetracycline. Financial considerations preclude the use of azithromycin as first line treatment for NSU in many centres, but better compliance resulting in fewer treatment failures, and fewer wasted appointments from defaults may counter the economic argument.

The results of the two glass urine test did not differ significantly between the two groups but overall was positive in 70% of symptomatic patients compared with only 47% asymptomatic (p<0.01). Its low sensitivity and specificity are likely to be even lower in asymptomatic patients. Default from follow up occurred more frequently in the asymptomatic patients, but was less evident in the azithromycin treated group, who had a lower default rate overall, as previously reported.

In conclusion, although the numbers are small, it would appear that azithromycin is an effective treatment for NSU, and can be given at the time of clinical diagnosis, pending the chlamydial result. Financial considerations preclude the use of azithromycin as first line treatment for NSU in many centres, but better compliance resulting in fewer treatment failures, and fewer wasted appointments from defaults may counter the economic argument.

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Table 1 Comparative age, symptoms, and response to treatment of the two groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1997</th>
<th>1998</th>
<th>oxytetracycline</th>
<th>azithromycin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number treated</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>52</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age (range)</td>
<td>28 (16–83)</td>
<td>25 (16–83)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No with symptoms (%)</td>
<td>35 (46)</td>
<td>25 (48)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No cured (%)</td>
<td>29 (38)</td>
<td>27 (32)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No treatment failures (%)</td>
<td>6 (8)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcome uncertain*</td>
<td>41 (54)</td>
<td>25 (48)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptomatic dna</td>
<td>8/35 (23)</td>
<td>4/35 (11)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asymptomatic dna</td>
<td>13/41 (32)</td>
<td>7/27 (26)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Originally asymptomatic with clear two glass urine, did not reattend (dna), possibly reinfected.

Many elderly people maintain heterosexual and homosexual activity. Therefore this age group is at a risk of all sexually transmitted infections. In our study, a smaller percentage of older attendees had STIs compared with previous studies. However, the number of older patients who attended for non-STI management are comparable. The delay between symptom recognition and healthcare presentation is a feature of STI related illness behaviour. The delay behaviour among individuals with suspected STIs is age specific, with longer latency periods experienced by people over the age of 50. This finding was seen in our study as well.

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Tertiary syphilis

EDITOR,—I read Dr Reed's letter on tertiary syphilis with interest.

The regimen he describes for the treatment of early syphilis—arsenic, bismuth, and round-the-clock aqueous penicillin, was used in our hospital from 1946–8 although daily penicillin in beewax was also used. It was unclear how much inactive penicillin K was in the commercial product used. The penicillin K then used here was higher than in Lincoln (40 000–75 000 units 3–4 hourly). There were 10 treatment failures (reinfections) out of 275 patients described.”

T. pallidum remains viable in the CSF even after adequate clinical treatment.’
The old adage that we achieve clinical but not microbiological cure of syphilis with antibiot-
ics is probably true.

It is likely that most people in developed
countries nowadays who have untreated
syphilis have received treponemical antibi-
ocits for other intercurrent infections, so that
any neurosyphilis that developed would
be either modified with few physical signs or
would be completely treated and clinically
cured. However, others disagree with this.

Dr Reed's question: we haven't seen anyone treated since the second
world war who has developed neurosyphilis in subsequent years.

DAVID GOLDMEIER

BOOK REVIEWS

Infectious Diseases. By Donald Armstrong and

The most striking first impression of these
two volumes is the lavish production with
marvellous illustrations, photographs, and
tables. It has many excellent features. The
text is well set out and easy on the eye.
The experience of the authors in approaching
various diseases and clinical diseases comes
through strongly. The sections comprehen-
sively cover infectious disease from basic
science to clinical management.

The clinical microbiology section is an important
anchor and could be a short textbook in itself.
I very much enjoyed the numerous practice
points, which are oriented towards clinicians
faced with funding solutions to problems.
These consist of short essays with tables or
illustrations and tackle particular clinical
problems such as “the diagnosis of HIV in
newborns,” “what is the treatment of a posi-
tive toxoplasma titre in pregnancy?” or are in
a debating style—for example, “how long
should osteomyelitis be treated?”

Each section is colour coded and although
the American numbering system takes a few
minutes to get used to one can easily navigate
around the book. The contributors are all
internationally famous in their fields and,
with so many of them, I am quite impressed
by how up to date the book is. They must
have been chased hard to get their contribu-
tion in on time. One of the few criticism

would be that there could have been more on
hepatitis C and its interaction with HIV.

However, if you can't find what you want in
this book, there is a comprehensive list of
websites, which are of interest to infectious
disease and other physicians. There is a free
CD ROM which creates a direct internet link
to these sites. The other important resource
is a slide library, which comes on the same
CD ROM. In all, 1300 tables and clinical and
table photographs are stored and can be
made up into personalised presentations;
these can then be used as a teaching resource
via computer generated images. The high
quality of these images will impress anyone
involved in producing material for teaching.

However, it is possible that a number of the useful
tables have not made it from the text to the
CD ROM.

Although this book is expensive, I would
recommend it to anyone interested in infec-
tious diseases especially those who have to
teach at any level, undergraduate, or gradu-
ate.

With the rise of the internet the big
booktextbook might be considered for extinc-
tion. Thankfully this book delays the time
when I will be downloading information from
the super highway rather than turning over
the pages of a well-produced book. If I need to
use my computer there is always that free
CD ROM....

ANTON POZNIAK

St Stephen’s Centre, Chelsea and Westminster Health
Care Trust, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital,
London SW10 9TH

Review of ABC of Sexual Health. Ed
John Tomlinson. Pp 60; £14.95. London:

I was delighted when the editor sent me this
book and asked me to review it. I had looked
forward with anticipation to the original
series that were published in the BMJ. I had
thought then that each article was just superb
and now they are all neatly packed together in
this ABC. I am of the opinion that this is an
excellent book which achieves its aim com-
pletely. On the cover, it says “it is an ideal ref-

Antony战争

London W6 0XG (tel: 020 8383 3904; fax:
020 8383 8555; email: sympreg@ic.ac.uk).

Pan-American Health Organization, re-
gional office of the World Health Organi-
zation

A catalogue of publications is available online (www.paho.org). The monthly journal of
PAHO, the Pan American Journal of Public
Health, is also available (subscriptions:
pubsvc@tsp.sheridan.com).

Imperial College School of Medicine,
Division of Paediatrics, Obstetrics, and
Gynaecology, Advanced Course for
Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 19-23
June 2000
Further details: Symposium Office, Imperial
College School of Medicine, Queen Char-
lotte’s and Chelsea Hospital, Goldhawk Road,
London W6 0XG (tel: 020 8383 3904; fax:
020 8383 8555; email: sympreg@ic.ac.uk).

Australasian Sexual Health Conference,
Ven Troppo, Carlton Hotel, Darwin,
Northern Territory, 21-24 June 2000
Further details: Shirley Corley, Conference
manager, Dart Associates, PO Box 781, Lane
Cove, 2066 NSW, Australia (tel: 02 9418 9396/97; fax: 02 9418 9398; email:
dartcon@mpx.com.au).

Imperial College School of Medicine,
Division of Paediatrics, Obstetrics, and
Gynaecology, Caring for Sexuality in
Health and Illness (for healthcare
professionals and nurses), jointly with
Association of Psychosexual Nursing 27
June 2000
Further details: Symposium Office, Imperial
College School of Medicine, Queen Char-
lotte’s and Chelsea Hospital, Goldhawk Road,
London W6 0XG (tel: 020 8383 3904; fax:
020 8383 8555; email: sympreg@ic.ac.uk).

NOTICES

International Herpes Alliance and Inter-
national Herpes Management Forum

The International Herpes Alliance has intro-
duced a website (www.herpesalliance.org) from
which can be downloaded patient infor-
mary leaflets. Its sister organisation the
International Herpes Management Forum
(website: www.IHMF.org) has launched new
guidelines on the management of herpesvirus
infections in pregnancy. For the 9th Inter-
national Congress on Infectious Disease
(ICID) in Buenos Aires.
Sexual Health and HIV Conference: Facing the Millennium, Portsmouth Marriott Hotel, Portsmouth, 28 June 2000
Further details: Rebecca Mitchell (tel: 023 9286 6796; fax: 023 9286 6769).

6th ESC Congress on Contraception in the Third Millennium: a (R)Evolution in Reproductive and Sexual Health, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 28 June–1 July 2000
Further details: Orga-Med Congress Office, Mr Peter Erard, Eissennestraat 77, B-1740 Ter- nat, Belgium (tel: +32 2 582 08 52; fax: +32 2 582 55 15; email: orgamed@village.uunet.be).

Imperial College School of Medicine, Division of Paediatrics, Obstetrics, and Gynaecology, New Horizons in Recur- rent Pregnancy Loss, 29 June–1 July 2000
Further details: Symposium Office, Imperial College School of Medicine, Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital, Goldhawk Road, London W6 0XG (tel: 020 8383 3904; fax: 020 8383 8555; email: sympreg@ic.ac.uk).

Imperial College School of Medicine, Division of Paediatrics, Obstetrics, and Gynaecology, Bereavement, 5 July 2000
Further details: Symposium Office, Imperial College School of Medicine, Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital, Goldhawk Road, London W6 0XG (tel: 020 8383 3904; fax: 020 8383 8555; email: sympreg@ic.ac.uk).

Imperial College School of Medicine, Division of Paediatrics, Obstetrics, and Gynaecology, Advances in Obstetric Medicine: International Meeting of Obstetric Medicine Societies (satellite to ISSHP, Paris, 6–7 July 2000
Further details: Symposium Office, Imperial College School of Medicine, Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital, Goldhawk Road, London W6 0XG (tel: 020 8383 3904; fax: 020 8383 8555; email: sympreg@ic.ac.uk).

XIII International AIDS Conference, 9–14 July 2000, Durban, South Africa
Further details: Congrex Sweden AB, PO Box 5619, Linneegatan 89A, 114 86 Stockholm, Sweden (tel: +46 8 459 6600; fax: +46 8 601 91 25; email: aids2000@congrex.se).

Ethical Issues in International Health Research, Durban, South Africa, 16–21 July 2000 (immediately following XIII International AIDS Conference)
Further details: Marie-Christine Ryckaert, Program director, Ethical Issues in International Health Research, Harvard University, John F Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA (tel: (617) 496-0484 ex 7474; fax: (617) 495-3090; email: Marie-Christine_Ryckaert@harvard.edu).

Further details: PACIFICO, SA, E Granados, 44, 08008 Barcelona, Spain (tel: +34.93.454.54.00; fax: +34.93.451.74.38; email: gp@pacifico-meetings.com).

MSSVCD Clinical Developments Fund
The MSSVCD Clinical Developments Fund is asking for applications for funding to support projects that advance the understanding and practice of genitourinary medicine. An amount of £10 000 is available to one or more successful applicant(s). Closing date for application is 25 August 2000. Further details: Dr Keith Radcliffe, Honorary Assistant Secretary MSSVCD, Whitall Street Clinic, Whitall Street, Birmingham B4 6DH (tel: 0121 237 5719; fax: 0121 237 5729; email: keith.radcliffe@bscht.wmids.nhs.uk).

3rd Congress of the Baltic Association of Dermatovenerology, 7–9 September 2000, Riga, Latvia
Further details: Professor Andris Y Rubins, Department of Dermatovenerology, Medical Academy of Latvia, K Valdemara Street, 76–75, Riga, LV-1013, Latvia (tel: +(371) 7370395; fax: +(371) 7361615; email: arubins@apollo.lv).

National NCCG Update Meeting, Bromsgrove Stakis Hotel, 23–24 September 2000
Further details: Kathy Taylor (tel: 01384 235207; email: palmtraining@tesco.net).

11th Regional Meeting of International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections, South East Asian and Western Pacific Branch and 24th National Conference of Indian Association for the Study of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS, 13–15 October 2000, Chandigarh, India
Further details: Dr Bhushan Kumar, Organising Secretary, 11th Regional Meeting of IUSTI–Asia Pacific (SE Asia and W Pacific Branch), Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy, PGIMER, Chandigarh - 160 012, India (tel: +91 (0172) 745330; fax: +91 (0172) 744401/745078; email: kumarbhushan@hotmail.com).

Consortium of Thai Training Institutes for STDs and AIDS—10th STDs/AIDS diploma course, Bangkok Hospital, Bangkok (30 Oct–12 Nov) and Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Thailand (13–23 Nov) 30 October–23 November 2000
Further details: Hat Yai Secretariat, Dr Ve- rapol Chandeying, Dept of OB-GYN, Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Songkla 90110, Thailand (fax: (66-74) 446 361; email: cverapol@ratree.psu.ac.th) or Bangkok Secretariat, Dr Thaniat Palanuvej, Bangkok Hospital, 189 Sathorn Road, Bang- kok 10120, Thailand (fax: (66-2) 286 3013; email: pthanit@email.ksc.net).

Consortium of Thai Training Institutes for STDs and AIDS—International Re- union and Refresher Course on Sexual Health, Lee Garden Plaza Hotel, Hat Yai, Thailand 24–26 November 2000
Further details: Hat Yai Secretariat, Dr Ve- rapol Chandeying, Dept of OB-GYN, Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Songkla 90110, Thailand (fax: (66-74) 446 361; email: cverapol@ratree.psu.ac.th) or Bangkok Secretariat, Dr Thaniat Palanuvej, Bangkok Hospital, 189 Sathorn Road, Bang- kok 10120, Thailand (fax: (66-2) 286 3013; email: pthanit@email.ksc.net).
CURRENT PUBLICATIONS

Selected titles from recent reports published worldwide are arranged in the following sections:

Gonorrhoea
Chlamydia
Candidiasis
Trichomoniasis
Pelvic inflammatory disease
Syphilis and other treponematoses
Hepatitis
Herpes
Human papillomavirus infection
Cervical cytology and colposcopy
Other sexually transmitted infections
Public health and social aspects
Microbiology and immunology
Miscellaneous

Susceptibility to gonococcal infection during the menstrual cycle.
S NOWICKI, A HARTVANTASSELL, B NOWICKI. JAMA 2000;283:1291

‘Broken windows’ and the risk of gonorrhoea.

LV TORIAN, HA MAKKI, IB MENZIES et al. AIDS 2000;14:189–96

Rise in gonorrhoea in London, UK.
IMC MARTIN, CA ISON. Lancet 2000;355:623

Urine screening for gonococcal and chlamydial infections at community-based organizations in a high-morbidity area.
CA JONES, RC KNAPP, M HAYES, BP STONER. Sex Transm Dis 2000;27:146–51

Evaluation of four commercial transport media for the survival of Neisseria gonorrhoeae.


Prevalence and tetM subtype of tetracycline-resistant Neisseria gonorrhoeae in Ohio, 1994.
DI TRESP, Y FAKEE, SW NEAL, JS KNAPP. Sex Transm Dis 2000;27:46–8

GM LJ, Q CHEN, SC WANG. Sex Transm Dis 2000;27:115–8

Effects of the immunoglobulin A1 protease on Neisseria gonorrhoeae trafficking across polarized T84 epithelial monolayers.

Charged tmRNA but not tmRNA-mediated proteolysis is essential for Neisseria gonorrhoeae viability.
CH HUANG, WC WOLFGANG, J WITHEY et al. EMBO J 2000;19:1098–1107

Chlamydia

Acute primary Chlamydia trachomatis infection in male adolescents after their first sexual contact.

Evaluation of patient-administered tampon specimens for Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae.

EL CIEMINS, CK KENT, J FLOOD, ID KLAUSNER. Sex Transm Dis 2000;27:165–7

Impact of switching laboratory tests on reported trends in Chlamydia trachomatis infections.

Detection of Chlamydia trachomatis in pregnant women by the Papanicolaou technique, enzyme immunoassay and polymerase chain reaction.

Multicenter evaluation of the AMPLICOR and automated COBAS AMPLICOR CT/NG tests for detection of Chlamydia trachomatis.

Chlamydial development is adversely affected by minor changes in amino acid supply, blood plasma amino acid levels and glucose deprivation.

Differential regulation of CD4 lymphocyte recruitment between the upper and lower regions of the genital tract during Chlamydia trachomatis infection.

T-cell epitopes in variable segments of Chlamydia trachomatis major outer membrane protein elicit serovarspecific immune responses in infected humans.

Candidiasis

Vaginal colonization by Candida in asymptomatic women with and without a history of recurrent vulvovaginal candidiasis.

Effects of reproductive hormones on experimental vaginal candidiasis.

Evaluation of the Oricult-N dipslide for laboratory diagnosis of vaginal candidiasis.
F CARLSON, M RICHATDS, J PAWONEN. J Clin Microbiol 2000;38:1063–76

Clonal and spontaneous origins of fluconazole resistance in Candida albicans.

Mechanisms of the proinflammatory response of endothelial cells to Candida albicans infection.

Bacterial vaginosis

Bacterial vaginosis.
B NIEVES. Anaerobe 1999;5:343–6

Metronidazole to prevent preterm delivery in pregnant women with asymptomatic bacterial vaginosis.

Pre-term labor associated with bacterial vaginosis.
H CALDEIRA, B NIEVES, A QUINTANA. Anaerobe 1999;5:403–4
**Trichomoniasis**

Resistance of *Trichomonas vaginalis* to metronidazole: report of the first three cases from Finland and optimization of in vitro susceptibility testing under various oxygen concentrations.


Antigenicity of *Trichomonas vaginalis* heat-shock proteins in human infections.


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**Pelvic inflammatory disease**

Pelvic inflammatory disease—an evidence-based approach to diagnosis.


Influence of human immunodeficiency virus infection on pelvic inflammatory disease.


Direct medical cost of pelvic inflammatory disease and its sequelae: decreasing but still substantial.


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**Syphilis and other treponematoses**

Unraveling the Tuskegee Study for untreated syphilis.


Nodular tertiary syphilis mimicking granuloma annulare.


Social network method for endemic foci of syphilis: a pilot project.

R Rothenberg, L Kinbrough, R Lewishardy et al. *Sex Transm Dis* 2000;27:12–8

Geographic variation of HIV infection in childbearing women with syphilis in the United States.


HIV prevalence in patients with syphilis, United States.


From the CDC—syphilis elimination: history in the making—opening remarks.


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**Hepatitis**

International congress on viral hepatitis A and B: experience in education and prevention.

Vaccine 2000;18:Suppl 1 (whole issue)

The seroprevalence of hepatitis A and B in people testing positive for hepatitis C.


‘Silent killer’ or benign disease? The dilemma of hepatitis C virus outcomes.


Hepatitis C epidemiology: injecting new tools in the field.


45-Year follow-up of hepatitis C virus infection in healthy young adults.


Prevalence of hepatitis G virus in patients with hemophilia and their steady female sexual partners.


Are booster immunizations needed for lifelong hepatitis B immunity?


Cellular and humoral immune responses induced by intradermal or intramuscular vaccination with the major hepatitis B surface antigen.


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**Herpes**

**Herpes simplex type 2 infection in the developing world: is it time to address this disease?**

L Corey. *Sex Transm Dis* 2000;27:30–1

Genital herpes and public health: addressing a global problem.

L Corey, HH Handsfield. *JAMA* 2000;283:791–4

Reactivation of genital herpes simplex virus type 2 infection in asymptomatic seropositive persons.


Herpes simplex virus type 2 shedding in human immunodeficiency virus-negative men who have sex with men: frequency, patterns and risk factors.


Editorial response: Asymptomatic herpes simplex virus shedding and Russian roulette.


Human immunodeficiency virus infection and genital ulcer disease in South Africa: the herpetic connection.


Medical care expenditures for genital herpes in the United States.


Herpes simplex virus DNA in amniotic fluid without neonatal infection.


Herpes simplex virus infection of the uterine cervix—relationship with a cervical factor?


The herpesvirus proteases as targets for antiviral chemotherapy.


Monoclonal antibodies suitable for type-specific identification of herpes simplex viruses by a rapid culture assay.


Establishment of latent herpes simplex virus type 1 infection in resistant, sensitive and immunodeficient mouse strains.


Herpes simplex virus infection blocks events in the G1 phase of the cell cycle.

B Song, J Hig, KC Yeh, DM Knowe. *Virology* 2000;267:326–34
A role for MHC class I down-regulation in NK cell lysis virus-infected cells.

Virus-induced neuronal apoptosis blocked by the herpes simplex virus latency-associated transcript.
GC Perng, C Jones, J CiacciCianelli et al. Science 2000;287:1500–2

Herpes simplex virus type 1 and -2 pathogenesis is restricted by the epidermal basement membrane.

Mitochondrial distribution and function in herpes simplex virus-infected cells.

Antegrade transport of herpes simplex virus type 1 in cultured, dissociated human and rat dorsal root ganglion neurons.

The latency-associated transcript gene enhances establishment of herpes simplex virus type 1 latency in rabbits.

Limited antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity antibody response induced by a herpes simplex virus type 2 subunit vaccine.

Effect of route of vaccination with vaccinia virus expressing HSV-2 glycoprotein D on protection from genital HSV-2 infection.

DNA immunization utilizing a herpes simplex virus type 2 myogenic DNA vaccine protects mice from mortality and prevents genital herpes.

Evidence for a bidirectional element located downstream from the herpes simplex virus type 1 latency-associated promoter that increases its activity during latency.

Gynecological infections as risk determinants of subsequent cervical neoplasia.

Papillomavirus detection: demographic and behavioral characteristics influencing the identification of cervical disease.

Evaluation of a human papillomavirus assay in cervical screening in Zimbabwe.

Determinants of low-risk and high-risk cervical human papillomavirus infections in Montreal university students.
H Richardson, E Franco, J Pintos et al. Sex Transm Dis 2000;27:79–86

Population-based study of human papillomavirus infection and cervical neoplasia in rural Costa Rica.

Epidemiological aspects of human papillomavirus infection and cervical cancer in Brazil.

Human papillomavirus-associated carcinomas in Hawaii and the mainland US.


A novel and rapid PCR-based method for genotyping human papillomaviruses in clinical samples.

Seroreponses to human papillomavirus types 16, 18, 31, 33 and 45 virus-like particles in South African women with cervical cancer and cervical intraepithelial neoplasia.

Seroreponses to virus-like particles of human papillomavirus types 16, 18, 31, 33 and 45 in San people of southern Africa.

Type specificity and significance of different isotopes of serum antibodies to human papillomavirus capsids.

Specific serum IgG, IgM and IgA antibodies to human papillomavirus types 6,11,16,18 and 31 virus-like particles in human immunodeficiency virus-seropositive women.

HPV16 E6 oncoproteins in women with cervical intraepithelial neoplasia.

Human papillomavirus types 16 E6 and E7 contribute differently to carcinogenesis.
S Song, A Liew, JA Miller, F Lambert. Virology 2000;267:141–50

The effects of interferon on the expression of human papillomavirus oncoproteins.

Human papillomaviruses and DNA ploidy in anal condylomata acuminata.
S Rihet, P Bellai, M Lowenzo et al. Histopathol 2000;15:79–84

HPV11 mutant virus-like particles elicit immune responses that neutralize virus and delineate a novel neutralizing domain.

The p53 Arg72Pro polymorphism, human papillomavirus and invasive squamous cell cervical cancer.

Telomerase, p53 and human papillomavirus infection in the uterine cervix.


The human papillomavirus type 16 E5 protein modulates ERK1/2 and p38 MAP kinase activation by an EGFR-independent process in stressed human keratinocytes.
**Cervical cytology and colposcopy**

Is it feasible for women to perform their own Pap smears? A research question in progress.  

Human papillomavirus testing for triage of women with cytologic evidence of low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions: baseline data from a randomized trial.  

**Revisiting age effect of the Pap test on cervical cancer.**  

MK KOG, ME BOON, RH SCHREINERKOG, LG Koss. *Hum Pathol* 2000;31:23–8

Comparison of immediate and deferred colposcopy in a cervical screening program.  

Quality control of cervical cytology in high-risk women: PAPNET system compared with manual rescreening.  

Incidence of cervical squamous intraepithelial lesions in HIV-infected women.  
TV ELLEBERGKE, MA CHIASSON, TJ BUSH et al. *JAMA* 2000;283:1031–7

Vaginal intraepithelial neoplasia and the Pap smear.  
RM DAVILA, MC MIRANDA. *Acta Cytol* 2000;44:137–40

Effects of tamoxifen on cervicovaginal smears from patients with breast cancer.  
MA ARAD, RR BARAKAT, PR SAGG. *Acta Cytol* 2000;44:141–6

A comparison of the side effects of prilocaine with felypressin and lignocaine with adrenaline in large loop excision of the transformation zone of the cervix: results of a randomized trial.  

Completeness of excision and follow-up cytology in patients treated with loop excision biopsy.  

Expression of MNCA9 protein in Pan-pannicolau smears containing atypical glandular cells of undetermined significance is a diagnostic biomarker of cervical dysplasia and neoplasia.  
AY LIAO, DJ STANBRIDGE. *Cancer* 2000;88:1108–21

**Other sexually transmitted infections**

Scabies and pediculosis.  

Risk factors for human herpesvirus 8 seropositivity and seroconversion in a cohort of homosexual men.  

Invited commentary: Determining specific sexual practices associated with human herpesvirus 8 transmission.  

Dukers et al respond to “Sexual practices associated with HH8V infection”.  
NHTM DUKERS, RA COUTHELHO, J GOUDSMIT. *Am J Epidemiol* 2000;151:230

Antibodies to human herpes virus type 8 (HHV8) in general population and in individuals at risk for sexually transmitted diseases in Western Sicily.  

Prevalence and risk factors for human herpesvirus 8 infection in northern Cameroon.  

Localization of *Haemophilus ducreyi* at the pustular stage of disease in the human model of infection.  

Evidence of declining STD prevalence in a South African mining community following a core-group intervention.  
**Dermatology**

Circumcision and genital dermatoses. 

Vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia of the simplex (differenitiated type): a clinicopathologic study including analysis of HPV and p53 expression. 

Vulvovaginal soft tissue tumours: update and review. 
MR NUCCI, CDM FLETCHER. Histopathol 2000;36:97–108

Protocol for the examination of specimens from patients with carcinomas and malignant melanomas of the vulva: a basis for checklists. 
BJ WILKINSON. Arch Pathol Lab Med 2000;124:51–6

Mucoepidermoid carcinoma arising in the glans penis. 

Penile Kaposi's sarcoma preceded by chronic penile lymphoedema. 

Pathergy reaction in Behçet's disease: lack of correlation with mucocutaneous manifestations and systemic disease expression. 
J KRAUS, Y MOLAD, M MITRANI, A WENBERGER. Clin Exp Rheumatol 2000;18:51–4

Case report: Artificial nodules of the penis—case report of an Indonesian man. 

An unusual case of a metastatic lesion to the penis. 
SS RAZI, EE GOTTENGER, BL GARCIA, KW LUI. J Urol 2000;163:908–9

Is there a case for school-based screening for sexually transmitted diseases? 
D HICKS. Lancet 2000;355:864

EL CIEMINS, CR KENT, J FLOOD, JD KLAUSNER. Sex Transm Dis 2000;27:154–8

Epidemiologic trends of sexually transmitted diseases in China. 
KL CHEN, XD GONG, C JIANG, GC ZHANG. Sex Transm Dis 2000;27:138–42

Editorial—sexually transmitted diseases in the People’s Republic of China in 2K. 
MS COHEN, G ONG, K FOX, GE HENDERSON. Sex Transm Dis 2000;27:143–5

Preventative intervention to reduce sexually transmitted infections: a field trial in the Royal Thai Army. 

Etiology of sexually transmitted infections among street-based female sex workers in Dhaka, Bangladesh. 

Prevalence of serum antibodies against bloodborne and sexually transmitted agents in selected groups in Somalia. 
YA NUR, J GROEN, AM ELMI et al. Epidemiol Infect 2000;124:137–42

Recurrent urinary tract infections in postmenopausal women. 

Women's sexual health after childbirth. 

New policy on circumcision—cause for concern. 
EJ SCHOEN, TE WISEWELL, S MOSES. Pediatrics 2000;105:620–34

Acceptability of formulations and application methods for vaginal microbicides among drug-involved women—results of product trials in three cities. 

Implications of asymptomatic endocervical leukocytosis in infertility. 
MC OLG, CS ME. Gynecol Obstet Invest 2000;49:124–6
Interleukin 1 receptor antagonist gene polymorphism in women with vulvar vestibulitis.

Sexual behaviour, STDs and risks for prostate cancer.

Incidence of erectile dysfunction in men 40 to 69 years old: longitudinal results from the Massachusetts male aging study.

Recurrent epididymo-orchitis in patients with Behçet’s disease.

Hypertrophy of labia minora: experience with 163 reductions.

Would women trust their partners to use a male pill?