LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Labial adhesions following severe primary genital herpes

EDITOR,—Labial adhesions following genital herpes infection have been described previously. To prevent their development various suggestions such as the use of early aciclovir, paraffin gauze, and saline bathing have been put forward. We believe nursing care is a significant factor in the prevention of this complication. Here we report two cases of severe genital herpes presenting at different sites, almost at the same time, both necessitating admission and developing labial adhesions.

CASE 1
A 25 year old woman was admitted to the medical ward with severe vulval ulceration, generalised skin rash, and difficulty in micturation of 4 days' duration. Clinical examination revealed target lesions, swollen labia, bilaterally enlarged tender inguinal lymphadenopathy with extensive vulval ulcerations. A clinical diagnosis of erythema multiforme was made. However, swabs taken for the diagnosis of HSV were negative. The patient made a gradual recovery and she was allowed home after 1 week in hospital. Two weeks later when she presented to the genitourinary medicine clinic, genital examination showed a thick band of adhesions between the middle halves of the labia minora, and new herpetic lesions. Examination revealed perineal and perianal ulcers. A diagnosis of primary HSV was made, intravenous antibiotics were stopped, and oral antivirals were started. The nursing staff were instructed to offer the patient a Sitz bath twice daily in view of extensive discomfort and oedema. Swabs taken confirmed the diagnosis of HSV. The patient made a gradual recovery and she was allowed home after 1 week in hospital. Two weeks later when she presented to the genitourinary medicine clinic, genital examination showed a thick band of adhesions between the middle halves of the labia minora, and new herpetic lesions (fig 1). She was prescribed oral aciclovir, metronidazole, and lignocaine gel and advised to continue salt and water bathing at home. A follow up appointment was arranged for release of adhesions. Surprisingly, separation of adhesions was not needed.

COMMENT
These two cases illustrate that females with severe genital herpes can be admitted to different hospital departments other than genitourinary medicine, where the nursing staff may not be familiar with the management and complications of this infection. Patients should be encouraged to separate the labial folds; this can be facilitated by the liberal use of local anaesthetic agents with the assistance of the nursing staff. Frequent saline bathing of the genitalia should be encouraged to facilitate the removal of the fibrinous exudate, which is responsible for the formation of these adhesions. GUM nurses and physicians should play an active part in the education and nursing care of such cases and lead the management especially when admitted to other specialties.

Contributors: EH managed case 1, JD managed case 2, while both authors wrote the manuscript.

E HERIEKA
Department of Genitourinary Medicine, Leicester Royal Infirmary

J DHAR
Department of Genitourinary Medicine, Derbyshire Royal Infirmary

Correspondence to: E Herieka, Department of GUM Leicester Royal Infirmary, Leicester LE1 5WW, UK


Accepted for publication 14 November 2000

Respiratory and cutaneous manifestations of disseminated cryptococcosis in AIDS

EDITOR,—A 26 year old, previously fit and well Afro-Caribbean man, presented with a 5 week history of a “flu-like” illness. Initially treated with antibiotics, the patient deteriorated, developing a cough, haemoptysis, progressive breathlessness, intermittent blurring of vision, and a rash. Investigations indicated he was HIV positive.

On examination, though orientated, he looked unwell and was febrile. He had an extensive papulonodular rash on his face, trunk, and limbs. Many of these lesions were centrally umbilicated with areas of associated haemorrhage (fig 1). Respiratory examination revealed decreased air entry in the right chest and coarse inspiratory bi-basal crackles. Funduscopy demonstrated retinal pallor, congested optic discs, and bilateral soft exudates associated with haemorrhages. He had no focal neurological signs.

Full blood count, urea and electrolytes, and clotting screen were normal. Arterial blood gases on 35% oxygen revealed a pH of 7.44, Pao, 9.4 kPa, Paco, 2.7 kPa, base excess –8.2. Chest radiograph demonstrated bilateral infiltrates with a right sided pleural effusion.

The patient had been treated for a presumed diagnosis of severe community acquired pneumonia and/or Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia plus Molluscum contagiosum of the skin. In view of the patient’s clinical findings, additional therapy was commenced with anticytomegalovirus (CMV) and anticytococcococcal agents.

Urgent blood and pleural fluid cryptococcal reactive antigen testing (CRAG) were strongly positive at a titre of >1:2048. Blood CMV PCR was negative. The patient could not tolerate a lumbar puncture. Despite initial improvement, he developed progressive respiratory failure and died. The post mortem revealed disseminated cryptococcal disease with involvement of brain, skin, lung, heart, liver, spleen, kidneys, pancreas, thyroid, bowel, adrenal glands, and testes.

Figure 1 Cryptococcal skin lesions associated with disseminated disease.
CASE REPORT

A 19 year old man presented with 2 day history of extensive painful pustular eruptions of the hands, forearms, and chest. He also felt unwell and had fever. Fingers were stiff and could not be fully extended. He was seen in the local accident and emergency department and prescribed flucloxicillin. On direct questioning he admitted that his illness started with painful penile ulcers followed 2 days later by severe localised crops of blisters, which then became infected. Ten days before this he had unprotected sexual intercourse with a casual female friend in Ibiza. He had extensive atopic eczema during childhood, which is well controlled now but has been getting hay fever for the past few years. Examination revealed symmetrical pustular eruptions on the hands, wrists, forearms, lower legs and chest, and a few vesicular eruptions on the hands typical of herpes. He also had multiple superficial penile ulcers. Axillary and inguinal lymph nodes were enlarged. There was also evidence of generalised eczema. Herpes simplex was isolated from the penile ulcers. Screening for other STIs and HIV was negative. He was treated with aciclovir 200 mg five times a day for 5 days with very good response. Two months later he presented to us with a similar episode that required treatment with aciclovir. Since then he has been seen on two occasions with recurrence in the past year, but the attacks were more localised to his hands and external genitalia (fig 1).

Eczema herpeticum is classically a disseminated herpes simplex infection of the skin occurring in patients with pre-existing active dermatitis. The infection may arise from a latent viral infection, or be acute in origin. The condition is often rapidly fatal if not treated aggressively. In the case described here, the patient was positive for Chlamydia trachomatis infection. The CRAG test provides a rapid means of confirming the diagnosis of cryptoccocal disease. It will be positive in blood in infected individuals in up to 95% of cases. The result can then be verified on culture of suitable body fluids.

We recommend early consideration of disseminated cryptococcosis in HIV positive patients with respiratory features suggestive of pneumonia or pleural effusions. The use of rapid diagnostic tests may help to improve the poor outcome in this patient population.

Recurrent eczema herpeticum: an underrecognised condition

Editor,—We present a case of eczema herpeticum to highlight that herpes simplex can cause generalised infection in atopic individuals and should be considered in the differential diagnosis.


Accepted for publication 14 November 2000

Pooline urine samples for PCR screening of C trachomatis urogenital infection in women

Editor,—Selective or universal screening for Chlamydia trachomatis infections has been suggested by the World Health Organization as a primary prevention strategy.1 The improved sensitivity of the nucleic acid amplification assays for the detection of C trachomatis allows the use of urine samples, suitable for screening programmes. However, these commercial assays are expensive, which make them disadvantageous for this purpose.

Therefore, some authors have recently evaluated the accuracy and cost saving of different urine pooling strategies using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and ligase chain reaction (LCR) tests for the screening for genital C trachomatis infections, reporting very encouraging results.2 3 As the pooling strategies need individual retesting of each component of a positive pool, in order to identify the positive samples the cost saving inherent to these strategies is limited and pool size dependent. For this reason, pooling may be particularly suitable when applied to low prevalence populations. On the other hand, a high number of urine samples per pool may yield a decreased sensitivity because of the dilution effect associated with pooling. Peeling et al and Kacena et al have put forward a mathematical formula to estimate the number of pools that are likely to be positive given a selected pool size and population disease prevalence.2 4 Thus, it is possible to estimate the reduction on the number of tests required for a pooling strategy compared with individual testing.

The objective of this study was to evaluate a pooling urine samples strategy for screening urogenital chlamydial infection by PCR testing.

In all, 330 processed first catch urine samples (FCU) from women attending general practice clinics in Lisbon (from August 1999 to February 2000) were pooled by five into 66 pools. Pools and individual specimens were simultaneously tested using the Amplicor PCR test, according to the manufacturer’s
emerging high-level ciprofloxacin-resistant Neisseria gonorrhoeae strain in Buenos Aires, Argentina

EDITOR,—The surveillance programme of Neisseria gonorrhoeae (NG) antimicrobial susceptibility patterns was implemented in 1980 in the National Reference Centre for STI (NRC). Twenty-nine peripheral STI laboratories belonging to the National Network of Argentina, distributed throughout the country, routinely send their isolates to the NRC for typing, susceptibility testing, and plasmid characterisation.

The NRC was incorporated into the WHO Gonococcal Antimicrobial Susceptibility Programmes (GASP) for the Americas and Europe. The epidemiological data and laboratory characterisation of this high-level quinolone resistant strain suggest it might have a foreign origin.

According to the literature reviewed no QRG strain with high level quinolone resistance was reported in Latin-American countries. We report here what we believe to be the first isolation of a strain with high level resistance to ciprofloxacin in Argentina. Owing to the large scale use of quinolones in our country, where antibiotic use is difficult to control, a substantial increase of QRGN might be expected in the near future. If dissemination occurs, current first line therapy, a single 500 mg dose of ciprofloxacin, should be reviewed.

S Fiorito
P Galarza
C Oviedo
National Reference Center for STI, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Buenos Aires, Argentina

A Lanza
J Shmayevsky
Center for Medical Investigation (CEMIG), Buenos Aires, Argentina

G Weltman
Biocenosis Laboratories, Buenos Aires, Argentina

L Buscemi
Dr F J Muñoz Hospital, Buenos Aires, Argentina

E Sanjuán
San Luis Medical Center, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Correspondence to: Susana Fiorito, MD, National Reference Center for STI, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Av Velez Sarsfield 563 (CP 1281) Buenos Aires, Argentina

smfiorito@yahoo.com.ar


Accepted for publication 14 November 2000

Dorsal perforation of prepuc due to locally erosive condylomata acuminata

EDITOR,—We recently reported five patients with sexually/non-sexually transmitted ulcerative diseases complicated by perforation on the dorsal surface of the prepuc. We could find reports of only three similar cases in the indexed literature. During screening of our STD clinic files we found record of another patient with dorsal perforation of the prepuc; however, it was not due to genital ulcer disease, but to condylomata acuminata. This patient, a 22 year old man had unprotected sexual intercourse with a commercial sex worker about 6 months before reporting to our STD clinic in January 1994. About 1 month after sexual contact, he
developed small papular lesions on the glans penis. Lesions enlarged rapidly and started eroding the undersurface of the prepuce. Finally, 3 months later, the prepuce was perforated. Examination revealed a large, circular defect on the dorsal aspect of the prepuce through which multiple papulonodular, wart-like lesions were also visible all around the prepuce. Clinical diagnosis of genital warts was confirmed by pathological examination of one of the wart-like lesions which showed features consistent with condyloma acuminatum. Serology for HIV and syphilis was negative.

In our earlier report all patients with dorsal preputial perforation had ulcerative lesions involving genitalia. Maite and Hay2 earlier reported a patient with genital warts treated with podophyllin, who presented later with perforation of the dorsal surface of prepuce. They considered it as delayed podophyllin damage. The patient had not been treated before with podophyllin. The identical presentation in our and the reported patient suggests that warts themselves and not podophyllin are responsible for perforation. Condylomas particularly in immunocompromised individuals may attain a very large size and rarely become locally invasive and destructive.1 In our patient, however, condylomas were not very large and there was no evidence of immunosuppression.

Our patient had condylomas all over the glans, but perforation took place only on the dorsum of the prepuce, confirming that this site is more susceptible to this complication. Incidentally, two more patients with perforation on the dorsal surface of the prepuce as a complication of chancreoid and genital herpes have been depicted in A colour atlas of AIDS in the tropics. Both patients were HIV seropositive. This suggests that this complication is not uncommon (though underreported), more so in tropics. HIV infection by altering the course and severity of genital lesions of sexually transmitted diseases probably makes this complication more frequent. Out of the 10 patients reported/published, half were HIV seropositive.

SOMESH GUPTA
BHUSHAN KUMAR
Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh 160 012, India
Correspondence to: Dr Bhushan Kumar kumarbhushan@hotmail.com


Urine proves a poor specimen for culture of Trichomonas vaginalis in women

EDITOR,—Trichomonas vaginalis infection occurs worldwide with an incidence of over 200 million infections per year. Clinical diagnosis in women ranges from asymptomatic to severe vaginitis, and has been associated with preterm delivery1 and an increased rate of HIV-1 transmission.

The traditional T vaginalis associated morbidity, including risk of HIV-1 transmission, makes simple accurate diagnosis important especially in at-risk populations. Microscopic examination of a wet mount vaginal specimen is easy to perform but only identifies 40–60% of infections in comparison to culture. The In-pouch culture system (Biomed Inc, San Jose, CA, USA) is reported to be equally sensitive yet more practical than traditional culture methods.2 It is based on an improved sensitivity in curing of urine from female patients for T vaginalis might prove useful in population based screening programmes, field investigations, or individual circumstances when a patient might not want a genital examination. Therefore, we set out to determine the sensitivity of culturing urine from women in comparison with a self collected vaginal swab for identification of T vaginalis.

We recruited subjects from a randomised community study that investigated the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections in women with and without access to female condom.3 In this particular study we obtained specimens from participants in two study sites. Participants were instructed by one of the study nurses how to obtain a self collected vaginal swab and at the same time collect urine. Women were told not to clean the genital area before providing both specimens. Immediately after collection the vaginal swab was inoculated into the In-pouch system and an enriched urine was spun at 2000 rpm and incubated at 37°C for up to 5 days according to manufacturer’s instructions. Daily microscopic examination was performed for identification of T vaginalis. Random specimen coding ensured that laboratory staff remained blind to specimen source and pairing.

We recruited 673 women for this substudy. T vaginalis was detected by culture in 121 (17.9%) women per self collected swab and 23 (3.4%) women per centrifuged urine. In comparison with culture of self collected swab, culture of centrifuged urine yielded a sensitivity of only 17% and a specificity of 99.6% (table 1). We originally intended to recruit over 2000 women into the study, but discontinued recruitment when preliminary results clearly demonstrated the inadequacy of urine for culturing T vaginalis in women. In this large scale community study we found that culture of centrifuged urine very insensitive for identification of trichomons in women. Since only 5–10 organisms in a sample are necessary for a positive culture, these findings were unexpected. We cannot fully explain why culture of urine for T vaginalis in women proved so poor. Because of contamination of the external genitalia with vaginal fluid, a first void urine specimen might have proved a better sample.

Supported by the United States Agency for International Development, Family Health International and a grant from the National Institutes of Health (AI114489). Biomed Inc donated the In-pouch for this investigation.

Contributors: OAAM helped design and oversee the study, assisted with analysis of the data, and drafted the manuscript; CRC designed the study protocol, analysed the data, and supervised preparation of the manuscript; DR assisted with the design and supervision of the study and assisted with manuscript preparation; JO performed the laboratory aspects of the study; the manuscript was written with the help of the co-investigator of the parent study and assisted with manuscript preparation; MK assisted with the design and supervision of the study, and assisted with manuscript preparation; JBJ oversaw the laboratory aspects of the study, was co-principal investigator of the parent study, and assisted with manuscript preparation; MMW was a co-investigator of the parent study and assisted in manuscript preparation; PJF was the principal investigator of the parent study and assisted with manuscript preparation.

OMARI A MOHAMED
Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya and Family Health International, Nairobi, Kenya

CRAIG R COHEN
Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya and Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA

DORCAS KUNGU
Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya

MAUREEN A KUYOH
Family Health International, Nairobi, Kenya

JAMES A ONYANGO
JOB J BWAYO
Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya

MIKE WELSH
Family Health International, Nairobi, Kenya

PAUL J FELDBLUM
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA

Correspondence to: Craig R Cohen, MD, MPH, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Washington, Box 356400, Seattle, WA 98195, USA ccrochen@uwashington.edu

3 Laga MA, Manohla A, Kivuru M, et al. Non-ulcerative sexually transmitted diseases as

It is 6 years since the first edition of this book and the expansion in knowledge about lower genital tract precancer affected in the addition of an assistant and a contributing author, as well as an increase in the number of pages (from 254 in the first edition to 323 in the present one). The extra input and space has been used to maximal effect with the book losing none of its attractions of appearance, content, and even texture by its use of high quality paper. The addition of a chapter on the role of human papillomavirus in lower genital tract neoplasia makes the book more rounded. This chapter is comprehensive as well as excellently presented and very up to date. I appreciated the section on the role of oncocytic HPV detection in the prevention of lower genital tract precancer, although this naturally concerned CIN rather than VIN or VaIN.

I would have preferred chapter 5 (Cytology and screening for cervical precancer) to follow chapter 2 (HPV in the pathogenesis of lower genital tract neoplasia) and then the more practical aspects of colposcopy itself would not be interrupted. This is a small criticism of an otherwise comprehensive and logical content. The chapter on the management of cervical precancer is a delight to read and see, with the section devoted to HIV positive women reflecting most shades of reliable opinion in this developing field. HIV is again included in the chapter on VIN.

GU colposcopy will be particularly interested in the final chapters on infective conditions causing confusion in diagnosis of lower genital tract precancer. It is easy to quibble with some of the statements of management of the infections noted (cervical warts do not even merit a mention of treatment) but that is not the remit of the book.

The illustrations are gorgeous thorough and the line drawings used to very good effect. The overabundant book critic might mention the data left on some colposcopic photographs, the venerable laser machine reflecting most shades of reliable opinion in this developing field. HIV is again included in the chapter on VIN. GU colposcopy will be particularly interested in the final chapters on infective conditions causing confusion in diagnosis of lower genital tract precancer. It is easy to quibble with some of the statements of management of the infections noted (cervical warts do not even merit a mention of treatment) but that is not the remit of the book.

The illustrations are gorgeous thorough and the line drawings used to very good effect. The overabundant book critic might mention the data left on some colposcopic photographs, the venerable laser machine reflecting most shades of reliable opinion in this developing field. HIV is again included in the chapter on VIN.

GU colposcopy will be particularly interested in the final chapters on infective conditions causing confusion in diagnosis of lower genital tract precancer. It is easy to quibble with some of the statements of management of the infections noted (cervical warts do not even merit a mention of treatment) but that is not the remit of the book.

The illustrations are gorgeous thorough and the line drawings used to very good effect. The overabundant book critic might mention the data left on some colposcopic photographs, the venerable laser machine reflecting most shades of reliable opinion in this developing field. HIV is again included in the chapter on VIN.

GU colposcopy will be particularly interested in the final chapters on infective conditions causing confusion in diagnosis of lower genital tract precancer. It is easy to quibble with some of the statements of management of the infections noted (cervical warts do not even merit a mention of treatment) but that is not the remit of the book.

The illustrations are gorgeous thorough and the line drawings used to very good effect. The overabundant book critic might mention the data left on some colposcopic photographs, the venerable laser machine reflecting most shades of reliable opinion in this developing field. HIV is again included in the chapter on VIN.

GU colposcopy will be particularly interested in the final chapters on infective conditions causing confusion in diagnosis of lower genital tract precancer. It is easy to quibble with some of the statements of management of the infections noted (cervical warts do not even merit a mention of treatment) but that is not the remit of the book.

The illustrations are gorgeous thorough and the line drawings used to very good effect. The overabundant book critic might mention the data left on some colposcopic photographs, the venerable laser machine reflecting most shades of reliable opinion in this developing field. HIV is again included in the chapter on VIN.

GU colposcopy will be particularly interested in the final chapters on infective conditions causing confusion in diagnosis of lower genital tract precancer. It is easy to quibble with some of the statements of management of the infections noted (cervical warts do not even merit a mention of treatment) but that is not the remit of the book.
gent quality control and legal standards, has become a life saving device. The chapter on latex condom manufacture was fascinating and gives almost enough detail to allow you to try it at home!

Each year 8–10 billion condoms are used worldwide although an estimated 15 billion are required to protect adequately against HIV/STDs. The chapter outlining the effectiveness of condoms in preventing STIs was clear, set out with an excellent summary table outlining data and references. There was a fascinating chapter on how the commercial sector has risen to the challenge of global condom distribution through social marketing. By using pre-existing infrastructure, supplies to Africa have increased from 45.8 million in 1987 to 264.5 million in 1990. In Thailand by targeting commercial sex workers through “the 100% condom programme” usage rates have increased from 14% in 1982–9 to 93% in 1993 with STI cases in government clinics dropping from 237 000 to 39 000. In the chapter on condoms and commercial sex there was a fabulous table summarising different condom usage rates by CSWs in developing countries.

The condom should probably receive more credit as a contraceptive device. Failure rates diminish with increasing experience and it may be a safer, long term option for some women when combined with knowledge of fertile days and progesterone only emergency contraception. There were interesting discussions on the use of condoms for anal sex, the pros and cons of non-latex condoms, female condoms (becoming increasingly popular, especially in Zimbabwe), and recent developments in spermicides and virucides.

In summary, condoms are highly effective, cheap, and largely free of side effects. This book left me with a renewed belief that they should be promoted at every opportunity and should continue unabated. I would highly recommend this book to anyone working in the field of sexual health.

GILL DEAN
The Lawson Unit, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Eastern Road, Brighton BN2 5BE

CD-ROM REVIEW

Topics in International Health: HIV/AIDS. £30 for individuals, £50 or £45 for institutions in developingcountries, and £120 for “first world” institutions, post inclusive with a 30 day money back guarantee. CD-Roms are not Apple Mac compatible. Oxon: CABI Publishing, 2000.

So the clinic’s not going well—you’ve too many patients and four students have all rolled up at once. Trouble is, they are all bucket-heads and no one’s(happily on a Pentium 100 with limited memory, which is welcome when the latest PCs remain out of reach to most in the NHS or in resource-poor countries.

The CD-Rom covers the whole of HIV/AIDS from testing through opportunistic disease to the psychosocial and community impact of the unfolding epidemic. The well crafted material is grouped into 11 tutorials with 50-odd pages each, broken up with well designed interactive quizzes to aid factual recall, such as matching HIV prevalence to world region by dragging numbers across a map. In the best educational fashion, wrong answers are met with a gentle reminder of the right answer and an offer to review the section again. A glossary is just a click away should a word be unclear, and a full reference list is hidden on each page for those wanting to explore more. A separate section allows incredibly flexible searching of a rich international collection of over 700 images by keyword or text. These can then be viewed as thumbnails for rapid tag, tagged for later printing, or saved in a personalised teaching set. Sneaking the illustrations onto my own 35 mm slides proved beyond my hacking ability, but I wanted to shows just how good the pictures are.

Improvements for the next edition might include integrating the references with Medline abstracts (for example, offering searches for other works on the subject of interest or finding works which cite the article in question), and including more video material such as interviews with key players in the field.

On a deeper level, such an international approach to teaching HIV/AIDS fits well with the emphasis of the recent international AIDS conference on the whole HIV epidemic, not just the treatment options open to those affected by HIV in resource-rich countries. The sections on treatment reflecting mainly research; such practices sit uneasily with the pictures of AIDS orphans and underfunded African hospitals. That this CD-Rom left me feeling uncomfortable about the structural inequity of the world is testament to the vision of its creators.

A J WINTER
Department of Genitourinary Medicine, Sandyford Initiative, Glasgow G3 7NB

NOTICES

International Herpes Alliance and International Herpes Management Forum
The International Herpes Alliance has introduced a website (www.herpesalliance.org) from which can be downloaded patient information 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 at the 9th International Congress on Infection Disease (ICID) in Buenos Aires.

Pan-American Health Organization, regional office of the World Health Organization
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@sp.pspo.sheridan.com).

Further details:Dr Mike Briley, Scientific Director, Pierre Fabre Medicament, Parc Industriel de la Chartreuse, F-81106 Castres Cedex, France (tel:+33 563 714 501; fax: +33 563 725; email: briley@pierre-fabre.imagetel.fr).

Call for papers—6th European Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care, 29–31 March 2001, Bologna, Italy.
Further details: BMA/BMJ Conference Unit, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP, UK (tel: +44 (0) 20 7383 6409; fax: +44 (0) 20 7383 6868; email: quality@bma.org.uk; website: www.quality.bmj.com).

Joachim Kuhlmann AIDS award 2001
The Joachim Kuhlmann AIDS Foundation, Essen, Germany, is awarding the above mentioned prize to investigators for the field of clinical and scientific HIV work. The prize is valued at 50 000 DM. Papers that have been published in 2000 or are accepted for publication can be submitted to the foundation for anonymous review. The submitted papers must be received by 31 March 2001. The award will be presented to the winner as part of the 8th German AIDS Congress in Berlin.

Submissions should contain seven copies of the paper and should be sent to: Joachim Kuhlmann AIDS Foundation, Birkenstrasse 55, 45128 Essen, Germany. Each of the submitted papers should contain a running title and may not indicate the names of the authors. An additional envelope should contain the running title on the outside and information in the inside as follows: first name, last name, date of birth, address, professional position, as well as the running title and the complete title of the submitted paper.

Further details: ECEAR 2001 Conference Secretary, Division of Retrovirology, NIBSC, Blanche Lane, South Mimms, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 3QG, UK.

Further details: Congress Partner GmbH, Krausenstrasse 63, D-10117, Berlin, Germany (tel: +49-30-204 500 41; fax: +49-30-204 500 42; email: berlin@cpb.de).

10th International Congress on Behçet’s Disease will be held in Berlin 27–29 June 2002.
Further details: Professor Ch Zoubbi (email: zoubbere@zedat.fu-berlin.de).

Further details: P Fourrier, Colloquium, 12 rue de la Croix St Faubin, 75011 Paris, France (tel: +33 1 44 64 15 15; fax: +33 1 44 64 15 16; email: p.fourrier@colloquium.fr; website: www.derm-wcd-2002.com).

www.stxtransinf.com
Pooling urine samples for PCR screening of *C. trachomatis* urogenital infection in women

J P Gomes, M A Ferreira, A Brito de Sà and M A Catry

*Sex Transm Infect* 2001 77: 76-77
doi: 10.1136/sti.77.1.76-a

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://sti.bmj.com/content/77/1/76.2

These include:

**References**
This article cites 4 articles, 3 of which you can access for free at:
http://sti.bmj.com/content/77/1/76.2#BIBL

**Email alerting service**
Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

**Notes**

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/