

**Poster presentations**

**P2.144** DO PATIENTS HAVE CONFIDENCE IN TRAINED NON-MEDICAL HEALTH CARE STAFF SCREENING FOR SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS?


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**Background** In 2011, 1.3 million sexual health screens (SHS) were conducted in genitourinary medicine clinics across the UK, a doubling of workload in the last 8 years. One approach UK clinicians have adopted in managing this increase is for minimally trained non-medical staff (health care support workers (HCSWs)) to deliver protocol driven asymptomatic screening to low risk patients. There is limited research regarding patient confidence with the service offered by HCSWs and re-attendance rates could be an indicator of patient dissatisfaction.

**Aim** To assess whether patients who have asymptomatic screening with HCSWs were more likely to return for subsequent assessment by a clinician following discharge.

**Method** A case controlled study of 300 asymptomatic patients attending for sexual health screening between October 2011 and April 2012. There were 2 arms with equal patient numbers, the HCSW led clinic and the clinician led clinic. Data collection and analysis for both groups included patient demographics, diagnoses, treatment, test results and time to next new diagnosis.

**Results** No significant difference was found between the patient demographics of the two groups. The rates of Chlamydia infection between the HCSW and the clinician groups were 8% and 7.5% respectively. Within the clinician group 4 cases of syphilis, 1 new diagnosis of HIV and 1 case of Hepatitis C were also diagnosed. The HCSW clinic had 19 (12.7%) patients re-attend for further screening within 11 months compared to 16 (10.7%) patients who saw a clinician, showing no significant difference between the two groups [p = 0.124 Fishers exact test]. Only 1 patient from each group re-attended within 6 weeks for further screening due to the development of symptoms.

**Conclusion** This study highlights low patient re-attendance rates within the HCSW group. This is an indirect marker of patient satisfaction and demonstrates patients are reassured with the service they offer.

**P2.145** ADHERENCE TO REPEATED HOME SCREENING FOR VAGINAL BACTERIOSES AND STI'S AMONG YOUNG WOMEN PARTICIPATING IN THE BRAVO RANDOMIZED CLINICAL TRIAL


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**Background** The BRAVO trial is an ongoing study designed to determine whether bi-monthly home-screening and treatment for asymptomatic bacterial vaginosis (BV) reduces risk of urogenital chlamydia and gonorrhoea infections in young women. Return rate of self-collected swabs is a critical element of home testing interventions. We conducted this preliminary analysis to determine the swab return rate and to assess its association with age, race, or recruitment setting.

**Methods** Participants, recruited from 10 clinics in 5 cities, were asked to mail self-collected vaginal swabs to the research team every 2 months for one year. For each evaluable participant, we determined the number of kits returned (of 6 total) and compared the proportion of women that returned all 6 kits according to age, race, and recruitment setting.

**Results** Data were available for 756 participants who were primarily non-Hispanic Blacks (76%), with median age 21 (range: 17–25 years), and mostly recruited from STD clinics (82%). Nearly all women (89%) returned at least one swab; 59% returned all 6 kits; 14% returned 5, 16% returned 1–4, and 11% returned none. Complete swab return rate (all 6) was greater among women aged 23–25 than those aged 17–22 (67% vs. 56%, p < 0.01) and varied among the 5 recruitment cities (range 42%–66%, p = 0.02). Return rates were not significantly associated with race and Hispanic ethnicity, or with recruitment from STD clinics vs. other settings (58% vs. 66%, p = 0.10).

**Conclusions** The majority of study participants collected and submitted all six home-screening kits, and 73% completed at least five. Adolescent women aged 22 and younger had a lower return rate than women aged 25–29, although the complete return rate was still over 50%. Therefore, frequent home-screening for BV and STIs is feasible in clinical trial settings and could likely be implemented as part of clinical care and STD prevention programmes.

**P2.146** CD4 LYMPHOCYTES COUNT AT FIRST PRESENTATION OF HIV POSITIVE PATIENTS RECEIVING ANTIRETROViral THERAPY AT A DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN GHANA


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**Background** Recent high level of mortality among patients both on clinical care and on Highly Active AntiRetroviral Therapy (HAART) has been blamed on late reporting of patients to Hospitals. The study determined the CD4 lymphocytes count levels of HIV positive patient at first presentation at STI/HIV Clinic at Suntreso Government Hospital in Kumasi, Ghana.

**Methods** This retrospective study reviewed clinical records of 883 positive patients, who reported for treatment at the Suntreso Hospital for the first time within January 2010 to December 2011. The date of first reporting and the level of first CD4 counts were recorded. Socio demographic information was also recorded. Data was analysed using SPSS 16.

**Results** More than half (54.9%, 485/883) of all HIV positive patients presented with CD4 count of less than 250 cells/mm3. 20.7% (183/883) reported with CD4 count less than 50 cell/mm3, 9.5% (84/883) with CD4 count of less than 100 cells/mm3, 24.7% (218/883) with CD4 count of less than 250 cells/mm3, 16.0% (141/883) with CD4 count of less than 350 cells/mm3, 10.3% (91/883) with CD4 count of less than 500. Less than a quarter (18.8%, 116/883) of patients came with CD4 count of less than 350 cells/mm3 or more. 70.9% came with CD4 count of less than 350 cells/mm3.

**Conclusion** Patients with HIV infection present late at the HIV clinic at Suntreso Government Hospital. Further study is needed to determine the causes for late presenting at the HIV clinic and address them, since this may account for high mortality among HIV positive patients accessing care.
P2.144 Do Patients Have Confidence in Trained Non Medical Health Care Staff Screening For Sexually Transmitted Infections?

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