CrossMark

Highlights from this issue

doi:10.1136/sextrans-2014-051776

Jackie A Cassell, *Editor*

In an era of scarce resources, how can we best target prevention activities and screening? This month, Simms and colleagues address this question in an editorial exploring the potential contribution of geographic information systems (GIS) to sexual health research.¹ This is a perennial problem, but new technologies may hold potential for improved targeting of resources without compromising confidentiality. This is definitely worth a read for colleagues working with commissioners to plan their services.

The British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) has revised its standards for the management of sexually transmitted infections, originally published in collaboration with the Medical Foundation for HIV and Sexual Health in 2010. Lowbury and Ahmed-Jushuf introduce this new edition in this month's BASHH column.²

The role of experience and training in diagnostic skills is a constant concern for clinicians, both senior and junior. Morris and colleagues present an interesting study which assesses the relationship between clinical experience and the diagnosis of pelvic inflammatory disease, which will provide food for thought for those responsible for training junior doctors in sexual health.³

We try to use our Education column to address issues that go beyond the guidelines. This month, Herbert *et al*⁴ address the practicalities and regulatory framework for notification of infectious diseases with special reference to the UK. A range of infection syndromes, systematic and local, present to genitourinary medicine clinics. It is important not to miss HIV—but equally important to facilitate appropriate action if an infectious disease with non-sexual modes of transmission presents.

The epidemiology of high and low risk HPV subtypes in Sub-Saharan Africa is addressed by Olesen *et al*⁵ in a systematic review who found large variation in prevalence.

HPV prevalence prior to vaccination in the USA is addressed by Introcaso *et al*,⁶ in a report on seropositivity to vaccine types using the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys.

Condom use remains hard to assess, a self-reported variable. We were interested to read a study assessing semen exposure using Y chromosome detection, in relation to risk of pregnancy. The study suggests that under-reporting of semen exposure is itself associated with a higher risk of pregnancy.⁷

Heterosexual anal sex is a common, but probably under-ascertained behaviour associated with vulnerability to STI and HIV. Ladd *et al* report the potential for internet facilitated rectal self-testing for young female heterosexuals. While not a solution on its own, this may have a place in STI services.⁸

Sex workers remain key populations in their different ways across the world. This month we explore STI and HIV among female sex workers in Mongolia⁹ and male sex workers in Glasgow, UK.¹⁰

Other topics include the relationship between mobility and HIV risk,¹¹ seroadaptive behaviours,¹² sexual risk typologies in young African Americans¹³ and HIV couples testing in China.¹⁴

I hope you enjoy this month's selection—do get in touch with your suggestions for commissions and developments you would like to see in the journal.

Competing interests None.

Provenance and peer review Commissioned; Not peer reviewed.

REFERENCES

- 1 Simms I, Gibin M, Petersen J. Location, location, location: what can geographic information science (GIS) offer sexual health research? *Sex Transm Infect* 2014;90:442–3.
- 2 Ahmed-Jushuf I, Lowbury R. Standards for the management of sexually transmitted infections—2014. *Sex Transm Infect* 2014;90:444.
- 3 Morris GC, Stewart CMW, Schoeman SA, *et al*. A cross-sectional study showing differences in the clinical diagnosis of pelvic inflammatory disease according to the experience of clinicians: implications for training and audit. *Sex Transm Infect* 2014;90:445–51.
- 4 Herbert S, Hewitt K, Cassell JA. Managing and reporting notifiable disease in the sexual health clinic. *Sex Transm Infect* 2014;90:452–4.
- 5 Olesen TB, Munk C, Christensen J, *et al*. Human papillomavirus prevalence among men in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Sex Transm Infect* 2014;90:455–62.
- 6 Introcaso CE, Dunne EF, Hariri S, *et al*. Prevalence of human papillomavirus types 6, 11, 16 and 18 seropositivity in the USA, National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys, 2003–2006. *Sex Transm Infect* 2014;90:505–8.
- 7 Rosenbaum JE, Zenilman J, Melendez J, *et al*. Telling truth from Ys: an evaluation of whether the accuracy of self-reported semen exposure assessed by a semen Y-chromosome biomarker predicts pregnancy in a longitudinal cohort study of pregnancy. *Sex Transm Infect* 2014;90:479–84.
- 8 Ladd J, Hsieh Y-H, Barnes M, *et al*. Female users of internet-based screening for rectal STIs: descriptive statistics and correlates of positivity. *Sex Transm Infect* 2014;90:485–90.
- 9 Munkhbaatar S, Aumakhan B, Jantsansengee B, *et al*. HIV and sexually transmitted infection-related risks among female sex workers in Mongolia: second-generation surveillance survey, 2011–2012. *Sex Transm Infect* 2014;90:463–8.
- 10 Fraser G, McAdams R, Heng J, *et al*. Psychosocial and sexual healthcare needs in men selling sex in Glasgow: a retrospective case note review. *Sex Transm Infect* 2014;90:504.
- 11 Ramesh S, Mehrotra P, Mahapatra B, *et al*. The effect of mobility on sexual risk behaviour and HIV infection: a cross-sectional study of men who have sex with men in southern India. *Sex Transm Infect* 2014;90:491–7.
- 12 Snowden JM, Wei C, McFarland W, *et al*. Prevalence, correlates and trends in seroadaptive behaviours among men who have sex with men from serial cross-sectional surveillance in San Francisco, 2004–2011. *Sex Transm Infect* 2014;90:498–504.
- 13 Davies SL, Cheong JW, Lewis TH, *et al*. Sexual risk typologies and their relationship with early parenthood and STI outcomes among urban African-American emerging adults: a cross-sectional latent profile analysis. *Sex Transm Infect* 2014;90:475–7.
- 14 Wei C, Muessig KE, Bien C, *et al*. Strategies for promoting HIV testing uptake: willingness to receive couple-based and collective HIV testing among a cross-sectional online sample of men who have sex with men in China. *Sex Transm Infect* 2014;90:469–74.