

P539 **PREVALENCE OF *CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS* AND *NEISSERIA GONORRHOEAE* AMONG MSM IN MOROCCO**

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Background *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (NG) are the most common pathogens causing genital tract infections. They cause a significant global morbidity and mortality and have been associated with increased risk of HIV transmission, mainly among key populations fueling STIs and HIV. Men who have sex with men (MSM) had been classified by the Moroccan National AIDS Program (NAP) as a vulnerable risky group with higher burden of STIs. The aim of the present study is to assess the prevalence of CT and NG among MSM in Marrakech.

Methods From October to December 2017, a total of 238 MSM were enrolled in the study using Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS). Access to this population was facilitated by an NGO evolving in the field of HIV and STIs, with extensive experience with hard-to-reach population. Eligible recruits were aged of 18 years and older and having lived in Marrakech for the previous six months. Socio-demographic and behavioral factors were collected using a structured questionnaire. CT and NG investigations were performed using the molecular test the Xpert CT/NG tests (Cepheid, USA) on anal swab samples.

Results The findings showed a prevalence of CT and NG of 9.24% (22/238) and 8.40 (20/238) respectively. A CT/NG co-infection was found in 3.36% (8/238) of cases. Fifty percent of MSM reported having passive anal sex with a male partner in the past six months and 44.1% have used Condom at the last passive anal sex.

Conclusion The prevalence of CT and NG among MSM in Marrakech has increased significantly compared to the results obtained in the first study conducted in 2010, which was 6.3% for CT and 2.4% for NG. These findings confirmed the need for the establishment and the expansion of programs targeting MSM in Morocco to strengthen the prevention and control the STIs among risky groups.

Disclosure No significant relationships.

P540 **HPV (SERO) PREVALENCE AMONG YOUNG MSM VISITING THE STI CLINIC: OPPORTUNITIES FOR TARGETED HPV VACCINATION**

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Background Because men who have sex with men (MSM) are disproportionately affected by human papillomavirus (HPV) related cancers, countries might consider targeted HPV

vaccination for MSM. We assessed the prevalence of vaccine-preventable HPV types among young MSM visiting sexually transmitted infection (STI) clinics in the Netherlands.

Methods We used data from MSM included in the PASSYON study, a biennial cross-sectional study among STI clinic visitors aged 16–24 years that started in 2009 when girls-only HPV vaccination was introduced. MSM were asked to provide a penile and anal swab for HPV DNA testing (including the vaccine-preventable types HPV6/11/16/18/31/33/45/52/58) and blood for HPV antibody testing (HPV16/18/31/33/45/52/58).

Results We included 575 MSM with a median age of 22 years and a median of 15 lifetime partners. No trends in penile or anal HPV prevalence over time were seen. Of the 455 MSM with both swabs available, 79%, 62% and 53% were HPV DNA negative at both anatomic sites for HPV16/18, HPV6/11/16/18 and HPV6/11/16/18/31/33/45/52/58 respectively. Most of these MSM who were HPV DNA negative, were also seronegative (80% for HPV16/18 and 70% for HPV16/18/31/33/45/52/58).

Conclusion The HPV prevalence among MSM did not decline since girls-only vaccination was introduced indicating that MSM are unlikely to benefit from herd effects from girls-only vaccination. Because the majority of young MSM visiting the STI clinic were (sero)negative for HPV16/18, the most important oncogenic types in males, targeting this group for HPV vaccination could still be beneficial.

Disclosure No significant relationships.

P541 **TO POOL OR NOT TO POOL STI SAMPLES IN MSM USING PREP? RESULTS OF THE COHMSM-PREP STUDY (ANRS 12369 – EXPERTISE FRANCE)**

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Background Syndromic diagnosis of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) has shown its limits among MSM using PrEP due to the many asymptomatic infections. However, testing three biological sites (urethra, pharynx and anorectum) is expensive. Our objective was to implement and to evaluate a pooling method using the locally available GeneXpert instrument to test for *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (NG) in the framework of the West-African CohMSM-PrEP study (Togo and Burkina Faso).

Methods Duplicate pharyngeal (P) and anorectal (A) e-swabs and first-void urine (U) samples were taken from every participant (n=192 in total). A specimen pool per participant (400 µL of each sample) was made and tested using the Xpert CT/NG kit. If positive, the individual samples were tested to confirm the site of infection. Duplicate individual samples were also tested for evaluation purposes using the Abbott CT/NG molecular technique and in-house qPCR.

Results A total of 32 CT infections (10U-20A-2P) and 34 NG infections (5U-19A-10P) were found. Twelve results obtained by testing of the pools were discordant from the individual