confirmed the evidence obtained by de Jong et al. for the occurrence of adenovirus 37 in the eye and genital tract. These findings represent the first report of isolation of adenovirus 37 in the southern hemisphere (de Jong, personal communication). Extrapolation from these results to those we reported previously would suggest that about 8% of isolates were adenovirus 19 and approximately 92% adenovirus 37. The association of human genital adenovirus infections with types 19 and 37 is confirmed by the results of this study. All patients had infection of the eye and the genital tract. In the near future we will be reporting in more detail our laboratory and clinical findings in human genital adenovirus infections.

This letter has been published with permission from Dr J C McNulty, Commissioner of Public Health, Western Australia.

Yours faithfully,

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References

TO THE EDITOR, British Journal of Venereal Diseases

An outbreak of gonorrhoea due to penicillinase-producing Neisseria gonorrhoeae (PPNG) in a provincial city

Sir,

Between October 1980 and July 1981 52 patients (31 men and 21 women) with gonorrhoea due to penicillinase-producing Neisseria gonorrhoeae (PPNG) attended the clinic at Cardiff Royal Infirmary. During the previous 12 months only three such infections were recorded.

Patients with uncomplicated gonorrhoea whose secretions contained Gram-negative diplococci were treated routinely with ampicillin 2 g and probenecid 1 g by mouth. Cultures were performed on chocolate agar and modified New York City medium. Tests for sensitivity to penicillin and penicillinase production were carried out on all isolates. When infection by PPNG was established, patients were re-treated with a single injection of 2 g spectinomycin. Four women infected with PPNG had complications (pelvic infection three and Bartholin's abscess one); they were treated with 1 g kanamycin daily for three days. Four men with PPNG infections developed epididymo-orchitis and were given co-trimoxazole two tablets twice daily for seven days. One man had epididymitis at the time of his first visit, the other seven patients developed their complications within a week of their initial treatment with ampicillin and probenecid. During the period reviewed seven of 209 men and nine of 137 women infected with non-PPNG strains developed complications. The difference in incidence of complications due to infections with PPNG and non-PPNG strains is significant ($p^2 = 7.435$, $p < 0.01$). It was noted during the outbreak that the PPNG strains were gradually becoming resistant to other antibiotics.

Most of the patients infected with PPNG (86%) were Caucasians; the remainder were foreigners living in Wales. One patient was infected in Bangkok, the other infections were contracted in the United Kingdom, and 60% of the men were infected by four Cardiff prostitutes. Fifty-two per cent of the patients were from the middle social classes, 16% came from a socially deprived background, and 32% were unemployed.

Yours faithfully,

L Cobbe
S K Pagi

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References