

relatively costly to manage. BASHH guidelines acknowledge that the evidence base for recommendations is poor. We aimed to describe the management regimes of GUM Consultants who routinely manage these conditions within our large network prior to introducing sector-wide guidelines.

Method We emailed appropriate GUM consultants from the six network centres requesting their standard management regimes for both conditions. We collated the responses and used BASHH Guidelines as a standard for comparison

Results All 14 consultants responded. Treatment regimes for VVC were broadly similar but only three consultants prescribed according to BASHH Guidelines. 13 consultants prescribed induction regimes. All consultants used oral fluconazole, doses included 50, 100 and 150 mg. Duration of induction regimes ranged from 3 daily doses, alternate day doses, 72 h doses to daily dose for 14 days. Ten consultants prescribed maintenance therapy for 6 months, 4 stopped after 3 months. 11 consultants prescribed 150 mg weekly for at least 3 months. For recurrent BV there was considerable variation and no one followed BASHH guidelines. Regimes included oral metronidazole (2 g, 400 mg), metronidazole gel or clindamycin pessaries. Induction ranged from 5 to 14 days, maintenance from 3 to 6 months. All consultants prescribed menstrual regimes if appropriate. Three consultants also prescribed Balance Activ or equivalent.

Conclusion Management of recurrent BV and VVC varied greatly across the network. Management of recurrent VVC was more closely associated with BASHH guidelines than management of recurrent BV. Management regimes are often based on clinicians' own experience. New network guidance has now been established providing a local standard for future case record audit.

P182 IS IT USEFUL TO PERFORM A FULL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION IN ASYMPTOMATIC PATIENTS WITH LATE SYPHILIS?

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Background In late and congenital syphilis a thorough physical examination should be undertaken for signs of syphilis as per British Association for Sexual Health and HIV guidelines. This should include examination of skin and mucosal surfaces, lymph nodes, the cardiovascular and neurological systems.

Aims To audit all cases of late syphilis at our centre to see if a full cardiovascular and neurological examination was documented and also to see if a full examination contributed to the management of asymptomatic patients.

Methods A total of 648 notes were identified as late syphilis from KC60 codes from our local database. Records were from the period 1994 to 2010. The following information was extracted from the clinical records: age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, symptomatic/asymptomatic, cardiovascular and neurological examination findings and further action taken where applicable. 148 notes were unavailable. 20 notes were excluded. Therefore 480 notes in total were audited.

Results Of the 480 patients, 262 (55%) were of Black Caribbean ethnicity, 75 (16%) White British, 68 (14%) Black African and 75 (16%) others. 240 (50%) were heterosexual males, 206 (43%) heterosexual females, 31 (6%) men who have sex with men. Information on sexual orientation was not available in 3 (1%). 295 patients were asymptomatic of which 288 (98%) had normal physical examinations. Seven asymptomatic patients had positive clinical findings but these did not lead to a diagnosis of cardiovascular or neurological syphilis. In 99 cases a full examination was not documented and in 21 cases patients declined or defaulted further

follow-up. There were 65 symptomatic patients all had abnormal physical findings.

Conclusion In view of the absence of significant clinical examination findings in asymptomatic patients with late syphilis we believe that a physical examination is not a necessary element in the management of such cases and should be omitted.

P183 HOW LIKELY IS ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION OF CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS DNA TO LEAD TO FALSE POSITIVE RESULTS IN PATIENTS ATTENDING OUR CLINIC?

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Background Environmental contamination with DNA from *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) has been reported from GUM clinics, suggesting the possibility of cross contamination of specimens during sample processing or the environment. If it does occur, contamination is likely dependent to some degree on how busy patient throughput is in a clinic. Our GUM clinic sees over 29 000 patients a year.

Aims To investigate whether diagnostic samples could become contaminated from the environment in our clinic.

Methods We investigated the potential for contamination in two ways. (1) A dummy run of 60 sterile water samples, as surrogates of urine and 10 sterile swabs during routine clinic times. (2) A patient throughput study using logistic regression analysis to see if patients positive for CT were associated with attendance numbers. We hypothesise that possible contamination increases after each infected patient and drops off to zero over the weekend. Our clinic is open from Monday to Friday and cleaned daily. Toilets are not cleaned between patients. Results were analysed for walk in clinics.

Results None of the dummy urine or swabs tested positive for CT over 6 months. In a year, 24 115 patients attended the walk in clinics with 2860 (11.9%) testing positive for CT. A logistic regression analysis was done on CT positivity on Mondays compared to Tuesdays to Fridays. This was adjusted for age, gender, sexuality and type of clinic. Rates of CT were 5% higher on Tuesdays through Fridays than on Mondays but the difference was not significant (95% CI 0.95 to 1.16).

Conclusion There was no evidence of dummy sample contamination during our study period. We found weak association between CT positivity and clinic attendance although it was not significant at the 5% level. Further studies with a larger sample size and analysis on within day trends could explore this in depth. Environmental CT is unlikely to lead to false positive results in our clinic.

P184 PEYRONIE'S DISEASE PRESENTING TO A SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

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Background Peyronie's disease (PD) is an acquired inflammatory condition of the corpus cavernosum of unknown aetiology. This can lead to formation of a plaque within the tunica albuginea of the penis leading to curvature and pain of the erect penis and erectile dysfunction. Medical treatment options are with colchicine or pentoxifyline.