Condom Use as a Function of New Young Adult Relationship Duration

Objective To find out how condom use in new relationships changes as a function of time, gender, as well as sexual and relationship satisfaction.

Method Participants in a larger study who reported at least one new partner during the 12-week study interval (N = 115; 18–29 yrs; 48% women; 75% African American) completed weekly STI testing and 3x/day electronic diary collection assessing individual and partner-specific affect, daily activities, sexual behaviour and condom use. We analysed event-level condom use percentage and subject-level behaviour response effects. Generalized Additive Mixed Models (GAMMs) were used to estimate condom use probability accounting for within-subject and within-partners correlations via random effects.

Results The average initial condom use in the new relationships was 62% for men and 46% for women. The plotted smooth shapes of the estimated condom use probabilities fitted using GAMMs were qualitatively similar for both sexes throughout the study period. The initial high condom use percentage was followed by a sharp decline during the first 1.5 weeks to 19% for men and 14% for women. The condom use rates stabilised at around 6% after 4 weeks in a new relationship. Women who reported high levels of relationship satisfaction exhibited marginally significant negative association with condom use probability (p-value = 0.055). Sex satisfaction was not significantly associated with condom use when both the time trends and gender were taken into account.

Conclusion Condom use declines sharply for both males and females during the early stages of new relationships. Men use condoms more frequently than women in the early and middle stages of relationships. Relationship characteristics may also influence lower levels of condom use, especially among women.
P3.036 GENITAL WARTS: DATA FROM THE ITALIAN GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

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Background Worldwide, several million cases of genital warts occur each year. The objective of this study was to estimate the incidence of genital warts (GW) in Italy, in a sample of the general population aged 15–64 years.

Methods A retrospective study was conducted in 2009 with the collaboration of 650 general practitioners (GPs), geographically representative of all Italian GPs.

Results The lists of the 650 GPs included 775,644 persons; their median age was 48 years, 52.7% were women. The incidence of GW was 0.44% (95% CI 0.39–0.49), specifically, 0.41% among men (95% CI 0.36–0.47) and 0.51% among women (95% CI 0.45–0.57).

The highest incidence was observed among 25–34 year-old individuals (0.64%, 95% CI 0.52–0.78), for both genders. When stratifying by geographical area, the incidence was 0.40% in Northern Italy, 0.32% in Central Italy and 0.45% in Southern Italy.

Conclusions This is the first study to provide an estimate of the incidence of GW in the Italian population attending GPs. The incidence observed is similar to that reported by GPs in the UK (Desai S, 2011; Cassel JA, 2006). These results show that GPs can have a key role in preventing the spread of GW by providing early diagnosis and appropriate referral, especially among young persons, women and in persons living in Southern Italy.

P3.037 HIGH PREVALENCE OF GENITAL WARTS AMONG YOUNG WOMEN IN ITALY

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Background Worldwide, several million cases of genital warts occur each year. The objective of this study was to estimate the prevalence and the incidence of external genital warts (eGW) in a sample of women attending gynaecological ambulatories and to estimate the number of women with eGW among women aged 15–64 years in Italy.

Prevalence Prevalence of genital warts (GW) among 13,515 women attending gynaecological ambulatories was 0.41% (95% CI 0.40–0.43), for both genders. When stratifying by age category, the incidence was 0.41% (95% CI 0.37–0.45) among young women aged 15–24 years and 0.27% (95% CI 0.25–0.30) among women aged 25–34 years.

Incidence The incidence of genital warts (GW) among young women attending gynaecological ambulatories was 0.41% (95% CI 0.40–0.43), for both genders. When stratifying by age category, the incidence was 0.41% (95% CI 0.37–0.45) among young women aged 15–24 years and 0.27% (95% CI 0.25–0.30) among women aged 25–34 years.

Conclusions The prevalence and the incidence of GW in young women attending gynaecological ambulatories is high and similar to that reported in previous studies (Desai S, 2011; Cassel JA, 2006). These results show that GPs can have a key role in preventing the spread of GW by providing early diagnosis and appropriate referral, especially among young persons, women and in persons living in Southern Italy.