Background: Chlamydia and gonorrhea are the most common bacterial sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in Canada. However, the prevalence of these STIs, as well as the risk profile of clients attending public health sexual health (SH) clinics, have not been well characterized in Canada.

Methods: Female clients of Hamilton Public Health SH clinics between Jan 2009 and Dec 2011 were enrolled in the study. Retrospective chart review was conducted. Logistic regression was conducted to identify important risk factors for STIs in predicting gonococcal and chlamydial infections.

Results: 2694 charts were abstracted from Hamilton Public Health SH clinics. The mean age of the clients was 24 years; 50% of the clients were under 21 years of age. The majority of the clients were sexually active (98%), of whom 147(6%) had both male and female partners, 27(1%) had only female partners, and 2405 (92%) had only male partners. Most clients practised vaginal (96.6%) and oral sex (74%). Anal sex, oral-anal sex and shared sex toys were less common with 12%, 2.2% and 2% of clients reporting these practices, respectively. Over half of the clients reported having more than 1 partner in the past year, 36% of clients reported two or three partners and 15% reported having four or more partners in the past year.

Conclusion: The prevalence of chlamydia and gonorrhea was 8% and 1%, respectively. The strongest predictor of these STIs was young age: ORs were 3.4 and 4.2 for age groups < 20 and 20–24 compared to > 30 years old.

P3.072 | STI CO-INFECTIONS WITHOUT ANY SYMPTOMS? - SCREENING IS NECESSARY


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Background: Sexually transmitted infections (STI) are not always symptomatic. Undetected and untreated STIs of the genital tract may result in long-term sequelae, such as pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility and ectopic pregnancy. Our aim was to determine the prevalence of different STI pathogens and the prevalence of possible coinfections in symptom-free men and women using PCR technique.

Methods: A total of 51 specimens, including vaginal (n = 19) and urethral (n = 32) swabs were collected from asymptomatic patients attending the Hamilton National STD Center. Samples were obtained and tested for Ureaplasma parvum, Ureaplasma urealyticum, Mycoplasma genitalium, Mycoplasma hominis, Neisseria gonorrhoeae, Chlamydia trachomatis and Trichomonas vaginalis by PCR examination (Anyplex II STI-7 Detection, Seegene).

Results: During the study period 19/51 genito-urethral samples (11/19 female, 8/19 male samples) containing at least one genitourthral pathogen were detected. The mean age of the patients was 40 years. 16/19 patients had infection caused by a single pathogen. The most frequent pathogens belonged to the Ureaplasmataceae family (15/19: 10 female, 5 male): Ureaplasma parvum (12/15) was more prevalent than Ureaplasma urealyticum (3/15). Mycoplasma genitalium occurred only in one sample in this population. 3/19 patients had co-infection without any symptoms: Ureaplasma species were coupled with Mycoplasma hominis two times and once with Neisseria gonorrhoeae in these cases. Chlamydia trachomatis and Trichomonas vaginalis were not detected in the samples during screening.

Conclusion: Females carry STI pathogens more commonly than males. High prevalence of Ureaplasma sp. in symptomfree female patients suggests that women, especially before conception, should be screened for more STI pathogens not only for N. gonorrhoeae or C. trachomatis. Occurrence of co-infections is also possible in the asymptomatic population.

P3.073 | PERFORMANCE OF SELF-COLLECTED VAGINAL SWABS IN DIAGNOSIS OF BACTERIAL VAGINOSIS AMONG YOUNG REPRODUCTIVE AGE WOMEN IN MYSORE, INDIA


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Background: Culturally, women are less inclined to undergo a per-speculum examination for screening of reproductive tract infections and consider self-sampling more acceptable. This study examines the concordance between Gram stains of vaginal smears and pH obtained by clinician conducted speculum examination with similar smears and pH prepared from self-collected vaginal swabs.

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Poster presentations