Use of online social networking technologies has been growing rapidly, especially among groups at risk for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), such as men who have sex with men (MSM), homeless youth, and African American and Latino populations. International studies are beginning to suggest a number of important relationships between social networking technologies, at-risk populations, and risk for sexually transmitted infections. (1) At-risk populations are using social networking technologies to meet sexual partners. (2) Although at-risk populations who use social networking technologies are engaging in high rates of sexual intercourse, they are engaging in prevention behaviours that might mitigate their risk, and (3) Social networking technologies can be used as platforms for scaling and diffusing STI prevention and testing interventions. Online social networks are tools that can be used to rapidly spread information and social norms. These same technologies that can be used to potentially spread STI transmission must also be implemented as tools for preventing transmission. Recent research is discussed.

The Internet provides new opportunities for sexual minorities to communicate and interact. Access to internet may facilitate coming-out for young MSM, sexual identity formation, and community building. On the other side the internet partly substitutes social and sexual venues where MSM congregate. Population and individual level aspects of internet communication among MSM were analysed based on data collected in the European MSM Internet Survey (EMIS).

EMIS was a large collaborative project of public health, academia and community based organisations from 35 European countries. The survey was online from June through August 2010, advertised on a large range of MSM websites. The questionnaire anonymously collected data from MSM across Europe. Among others, detailed information on the last sexual intercourse with a non-steady partner was collected.

The analysis is based on 174,209 eligible respondents. Participation rates in 38 countries with more than 100 respondents varied considerably (0.3 – 6.8/10,000 inhabitants) and correlated with internet access. A comparison of self-reported new diagnoses of HIV and national surveillance data suggests different relative sizes of MSM populations in different countries. Among men reporting a non-steady sex partner in the last 12 months, 58% had met this partner on the internet. Compared with partners met in venues, serostatus communication with internet partners was more frequent, respondents more often already had sex with their internet partners before, and partners were more often presumed HIV seroconcordant. Contrarily, refraining from anal sex was less often an option for partners met on the internet.

Improved access to internet may increase the relative size of MSM populations by involving a larger number of individuals into sexual networks. With broadening access to internet risk reducing aspects like increased communication before sexual encounters become more pronounced. Promoting protective and preventive behaviours can counter adverse effects of the internet on the HIV epidemic.
data to support a role for acquisition of BVAB and how this process might differ among subsets of women.

**S16.3 RECURRENT TV: THE POTENTIAL OF MOLECULAR TECHNIQUES TO IMPROVE CLINICAL PRACTISE**


M M Hobbs. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, United States

Infection with the widespread protozoan pathogen *Trichomonas vaginalis* (TV) does not result in lasting immunity, and recurrent infections are common. Whether due to unrecognised, inadequately treated or repeatedly acquired TV infections, recurrent vaginitis in women, nongonococcal urethritis and chronic prostatitis in men are well-recognised and challenging clinical conditions. Despite increased recognition in the STI research community of the adverse consequences of trichomoniasis in women and men and the potential for TV infection to increase transmission of HIV and other STIs, *T. vaginalis* infection remains underappreciated by clinicians, public health professionals, policy makers and patients. Trichomoniasis is not a reportable STI in most countries, and TV infection is often asymptomatic, thus many infections are neither diagnosed nor treated. Symptomatic infection in women is the clinical presentation most likely to be recognised and treated, but treatment of male sexual partners of infected women is infrequent or inadequate, and testing and treatment of trichomoniasis in male patients is rare. Thus, reservoirs of infection persist.

Recent improvements in molecular diagnostics for detection of TV in women and men have the potential to improve clinical practice. Rapid antigen detection tests offer point of care testing and treatment options in settings where technically complex and costly nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs) are not available, and NAATs offer highly sensitive and specific testing options for detection of TV in urogenital specimens commonly tested for other sexually transmitted pathogens including *N. gonorrhoeae* and *C. trachomatis*. With enhanced awareness, availability and applicability of these molecular tests, better detection and treatment of trichomoniasis in women and in their sexual partners can be achieved with eventual reduction of the adverse reproductive consequences associated with *T. vaginalis* infection.

**S16.4 LYMPHGRANULOMA VENEREUM IN MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN: AN ONGOING EPIDEMIC SINCE 10 YEARS, BUT STILL NOT TACKLED**


1. H J C De Vries. *STI* outpatient clinic, Public Health Service Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; 2Dermatology, Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; 3Centre for Infection and Immunity (CINIMA), Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

LGV is endemic in large parts of the tropics. Since 2008 anorectal LGV is also endemic among Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) throughout the industrialised world. Currently we see an increase in the incidence of LGV cases among MSM in Amsterdam. Occasional cases of heterosexual LGV are usually imported from endemic countries.

LGV is caused by Chlamydia trachomatis (Ct) biobar L. Compared to non-L biobar infections, LGV has a completely different clinical picture characterised by an invasive, lymph destructive and fibrosing inflammatory reaction. The majority of MSM with LGV are HIV co-infected (up to 85%), and a considerable portion is hepatitis C co-infected.

LGV requires extensive treatment in contrast to non-L Ct infections, thus correct biobar identification is clinically relevant. Routinely LGV is excluded in Ct positive anal, ulcer, and bubo samples. Urethral LGV is not screened routinely. The vast majority of reported LGV cases comprise anorectal infections. Infections residing at other locations than the rectum could form an undiagnosed and undertreated reservoir contributing to ongoing LGV transmission. We recently found concurrent urethral LGV infections in 2.1% of MSM with anorectal LGV. Moreover, 6.8% of the partners of anorectal LGV cases had a urethral LGV infection. This shows that urethral LGV is common, probably key in transmission, and missed in current routine LGV screening algorithms.

In European MSM the majority of LGV infections is caused by biovar L2b (Amsterdam variant). Based on clonal relatedness of prevalent LGV strains, there is evidence that the LGV epidemic among MSM prevailed already in the United States in the 1980s and was introduced into Europe by the end of the last century via the highly internationalised network of sexual contacts among MSM. A new LGV variant was unveiled and designated L2c.

**S16.5 MANAGEMENT OF SYPHILIS IN PREGNANCY**


J Wilson. Centre for Sexual Health, Leeds, UK

There are a number of clinical challenges that are specific to managing syphilis in pregnancy. Which women have the highest risk of adverse pregnancy outcome and is there anything extra we should do for them? What effect does the timing of treatment have on the pregnancy? What is the best treatment and should this be modified in the presence of HIV? What effect does the Jarisch-Herxheimer reaction have on pregnancy? What rate of adverse pregnancy outcome can be expected following successful treatment? Should all babies be treated at birth and how should the baby be monitored?

Early stage maternal infection and higher RPR increase the risk of adverse pregnancy outcome. Treatment in the third trimester is also associated with poorer outcomes. Parenteral penicillin G is the only recommended therapy for treatment of syphilis during pregnancy, and the lack of effective alternatives is why desensitisation is recommended in those who report a penicillin allergy. However, a meta-analysis concluded there is insufficient evidence to determine an optimal penicillin regimen. Adequate treatment in pregnancy significantly reduces adverse pregnancy outcomes (APOs) and congenital syphilis but APOs are still reported probably due to placental damage and effects of the fetal immune response. Some guidelines recommend treating all infants born to positive women whether or not the mother was adequately treated in pregnancy whereas others suggest this is probably not necessary. All recommend examination and serological testing of the babies every 3 months until the test/s become nonreactive.

This presentation will look at the evidence base, and the recommendations in different national guidelines, to try to provide answers to these questions.

**YI - American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association – Young Investigators Symposium: research in progress: Highlights from the American STD association developmental awards programme**

**YI.1 CONDOM USE & PLEASURE IN A SAMPLE OF YMSM: A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**


R Arrington-Sanders, IGW Harper, JD Fortenberry, JA Bauermeister. Division of General Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, United States, 1Health Behavior and Health Education, University of Michigan School of Public Health, Ann Arbor, MI, United States, 2Indiana University School of Medicine Section of Adolescent Medicine, Indianapolis, IN, United States