determine the frequency of detection of M. genitalium and to investigate causal relationship between M. genitalium and cervicitis.

**Methods** Two hundred women who attended gynecologic clinics were recruited. Mucopurulent cervicitis was defined as presence of either visible yellow mucopus or presence of > 30PMLN/L1000 X microscopic field on gramme stain smear of cervical mucus. First void urine (FVU), three endocervical swabs (ECS) were collected from the study group and control group. All the samples were tested by PCR amplification for presence of M. genitalium by targeting MgPa gene as described previously. Samples were also subjected to culture for other genital Mycoplasmas and PCR amplification for Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae.

**Results** Mycoplasma genitalium was found in 6% from ECS and 5% from Urine of women with Cervicitis and overall M. genitalum was detected in 11% of women and 1% from Controls (P < 0.05). Disordered proliferative endometrium was observed in 4 of the M. genitalium positive cases. All the patients who were positive for Chlamydia trachomatis (5%) and Mycoplasma hominis(7%) and Ureaplasma urealyticum(4%) were excluded from the study. Prior miscarriage, menstrual cycle, whitish vaginal discharge and pelvic discomfort were positively associated with M. genitalium.

**Conclusions** The study suggests association of M. genitalum infection and Cervicitis and this microorganism should be routinely screened in patients of cervicitis.

**P3.296** PREVALENCE OF CHLAMYDIAL INFECTIONS WITHIN EIGHT SOUTH AFRICAN PROVINCES (2006–2011)

**F Radebe, Y Masoke, I Basson, G de Gita, S Takouva, A Lewis. Centre for HIV & STIs, NICD/NHLS, Johannesburg, South Africa**

**Background** The microbiological surveillance was undertaken in eight provinces of South Africa during 2006–2011 to determine the aetiology of the male urethritis syndrome (MUS), vaginal discharge syndrome (VDS) and genital ulcer syndrome (GUS) and the prevalence of HIV, HSV-2 and syphilis.

**Methods** 1361 MUS, 1691 VDS and 465 GUS cases were consecutively recruited in eight South African provinces (2006–2011). Laboratory-based diagnostic methods included nucleic acid amplification to detect Chlamydia trachomatis, Neisseria gonorrhoeae, Mycoplasma genitalium, Trichomonas vaginalis, Herpes Simplex Virus 2, Haemophilus ducreyi, Treponema pallidum and Chlamydia trachomatis serovars L1–3.

**Results** Overall, 202 (14.9%) MUS and 240 (14.2%) VDS cases were positive for C. trachomatis while 6 (1.3%) GUS cases were positive for C. trachomatis serovars L1–3. The highest prevalence of C. trachomatis was 21.1% in Gauteng among men and 19.4% in women. The prevalence in other provinces was: Mpusulanga (men 18.4%; women 17.4%), Limpopo (men 14.0%; women 16.7%), Eastern Cape (men 16.4%; women 13.5%), Western Cape (men 15.8%; women 14.9%), North West (men 10.3%; women 11.1%), Free State (men 8.0%; women 9.8%) and Northern Cape (men 8.1%; women 9.6%). C. trachomatis serovars L1–3 prevalence was 3.2% in the Free State, 2.8% in Mpusulanga and 0.7% in Gauteng. No C. trachomatis serovars L1–3 were detected in other five provinces.

**Conclusions** The prevalence of C. trachomatis infection was high in this population and remains an important cause of genital infection in South Africa particularly in men. This may fuel the HIV epidemic which was high in most of the provinces in this study.

**P3.297** SURVEILLANCE OF SYphilis IN THE STATE OF SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

**C G Luppi, W K Alencar, M A Silva, S E Chabu, S Romera. Centro de Referência do DST/AIDS-SES-SP, São Paulo, Brazil**

**Background** The programme of STD/AIDS in the state of São Paulo has been implementing several actions toward to control and prevent sexually transmitted infections (STI); - congenital syphilis elimination plan, - access to diagnosis and treatment of acquired syphilis, - availability of syphilis rapid test in STD clinics. The report of syphilis confirmed cases was included in the Brazilian surveillance notification system since 2010, but the surveillance of STIs in the state of São Paulo began in 1998. The objective of this study is to describe the occurrence of syphilis cases reported in the state of São Paulo.

**Methods** It was performed a series of all cases reported in the state of São Paulo from 1998 to June 2012.

**Results** From 2007 42,965 cases were reported, 59% were male, 37% young adults, 45% had schooling up to 8 years; 49% self-reported their race/ethnicity as white. From 1998 to 2003 4124 cases were reported, 1447 in 2006, and 10,022 cases in 2011. The number of cases increased approximately 7 times from 2006 to 2011. It was found an increase of 132% (586/2007–1365/2011) in the number of services which has sent the syphilis notification.

**Conclusion** There was a significant increase of syphilis cases reported during this period analysed in the state of São Paulo. This result could be explained for: - inclusion of this condition on the national list of notification, - adherence of surveillance teams to the syphilis notification, - increase of syphilis rapid test in STD services.
The increase in the number of health facilities as well as the number of cases could reflect in part the positive impact of actions implemented by the state programme.

P3.298 TRENDS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF TRICHOMONAS VAGINALIS INFECTION IN MEN AND WOMEN WITH GENITAL DISCHARGE SYNDROMES IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA


'D V Maseko, 'K Marsh, 'F Radebe, 'G Hughes, 'L D Lewis. 'Centre for HIV and STIs, National Institute for Communicable Diseases, National Health Laboratory Service, Johannesburg, South Africa; 'HIV and STI Department, Health Protection Services Colindale, London, UK; 'Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; 'Division of Medical Microbiology, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Objectives To better understand the epidemiology of Trichomonas vaginalis infection, we investigated the association between T. vaginalis and demographic, clinical, microbiological and behavioural characteristics of patients presenting with genital discharges to a primary healthcare clinic in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Methods During six annual surveys (2007–2012), 1,218 male urethral discharge syndrome (MUDS) and 1,232 vaginal discharge syndrome (VDS) cases were consecutively recruited. Diagnostic methods included nucleic acid amplification (Neisseria gonorrhoeae, Chlamydia trachomatis, T. vaginalis, Mycoplasma genitalium), microscopy (bacterial vaginosis, Candida) and serology (Treponema pallidum, HSV-2, HIV). Chi-squared tests and logistic regression analyses were used to identify predictors of T. vaginalis infection.

Results T. vaginalis prevalence decreased from 2007 to 2012 (men, 13.4% to 4.8%, p < 0.001; women, 33.8% to 21.3%, p < 0.001). Overall, 74 (6.1%) men and 291 (23.6%) women were T. vaginalis positive, with the highest prevalence in those aged ≥ 40 years (men, 13.6%; women, 30.9%). T. vaginalis infection occurred more often in pregnant women (adjusted odds ratio, aOR, 2.67, 95% confidence intervals, CI, 1.29–5.54) and women with serological evidence of T. pallidum (aOR, 1.63; 95% CI 1.08–2.45) or HSV-2 infections (aOR 1.75, 95% CI 1.16–2.64). T. vaginalis infection occurred less often in men with co-existent gonorrhoea (aOR 0.35, 95% CI, 0.21–0.57) and in women with either BV (aOR 0.60, 95% CI 0.44–0.82) or Candida morphotypes (OR 0.61, 95% CI 0.43–0.86).

Conclusions Although the prevalence of T. vaginalis infection decreased over time, it remains an important cause of genital discharge in South Africa, particularly in older patients and pregnant women.

P3.299 TETRACYCLINE RESISTANCE IN UREAPLASMA SPECIES ISOLATED FROM WOMEN PRESENTING FOR TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY IN PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA


M Le Roux, B E De Villiers, M R M Ditsele, S T Monoakoane, I M Ngobeni. University of Limpopo (Medunsa Campus), Ga-Rankuwa, South Africa

Background The risks of untreated sexually transmitted infections in association with termination of pregnancy are known to increase the risk of post-termination complications. Local studies have shown a high genital tract carriage of mycoplasmas. Tetracyclines are widely used as first line agents against when ureaplasma infection is detected. However, there is limited data on the susceptibility profiles and mechanisms of resistance amongst Ureaplasma strains circulating in the Pretoria community. This study was undertaken to determine antimicrobial resistance to tetracycline amongst Ureaplasma species isolated from women presenting for termination of pregnancy at a tertiary referral hospital in South Africa.

Methods Two vaginal swabs were collected from each of 100 women after written informed consent was obtained. The first swab was used for PCR detection of genital ureaplasmas and tetracycline-resistance genes. The second swab was used for culture (Mycoplasma Duo kit) and phenotypic antimicrobial susceptibility testing (SIR Mycoplasma kit).

Results Ureaplasma species were isolated from 46 women (46%). Forty-two women were infected with U. urealyticum, 1 with U. parvum and 3 were dually infected. Susceptibility profiles were obtained for 41 isolates. Fifteen (36.6%) demonstrated resistance to tetracycline. Fourteen (34.1%) were also resistant to doxycycline with 1 isolate showing intermediate resistance. All 41 strains contained the tetM gene, 39 contained the 1.7kb fragment of the tetracycline resistance gene and 36 strains contained the int-Tn gene.

Conclusion Genital ureaplasmas were isolated from nearly half the study population of women presenting for TOP. The predominant species identified was U urealyticum. Tetracycline and doxycycline resistance was detected nearly a third of the isolates and this has implications for management of patients to prevent post-partum complications. The study will be expanded and communicated to the National Department of Health as this will impact future strategies of the National Department of Health as this will impact future strategies of this country.

P3.300 ASSESSMENT OF SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR OF ALBANIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS


Background The aim of this study is to assess the sexual behaviour of high school youngsters in Albania in order to design better behaviour change interventions targeting this group of young people.

Methods This is a quantitative behavioural survey targeting young pupil attending high schools carried out in all regions in Albania. A representative sample of 2172 pupils of age group 15–19 years old was included in the study. A stratified random sampling technique was used to obtain this sample. A self administered structured questionnaire was used to collect data. Data analysis was made using SPSS version 12.

Results Almost 30% of participants of the study reported having had sexual intercourse, with a median age at first intercourse of 15 years. Only 23% of those experiencing sexual intercourse have ever used a condom. The reason for using it is to prevent an unwanted pregnancy and not to prevent sexually transmitted infections. 90% of the young people identified pharmacy stores as the only place to find condoms, while the family planning centres are not considered at all. Majority of young people did not discuss issues regarding condom use with their sexual partners.

Conclusion Although sexual education is part of the school curricula since few years, further strategies and interventions are needed to address issues regarding delaying first sexual intercourse and increasing condom use among high school young people in Albania.

P3.301 MALE CLIENTS OF SEX WORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES: CORRELATES WITH STI/HIV RISK BEHAVIORS AND URBANIZATION LEVEL


M A Villarreal. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, United States

Background Men who have purchased sex from sex workers (“clients”) have been associated with an increased risk of acquiring STIs including HIV and in influencing the spread of infection in the