**Poster presentations**

**P5.018** IMPROVED DIAGNOSIS OF NON-NEOPLASTIC CONDITIONS OF CERVIX BY LIQUID BASED CYTOLOGY, CELLBLOCK IN COMPARISON WITH CONVENTIONAL PAP SMEAR METHOD  
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**Background** The Papanicolaou (Pap) smear is the most successful screening test for carcinoma of cervix, mainly as a result of its simplicity, low cost, low false-negative rate and its early detection of preneoplastic lesions. It is also used to diagnose several infectious agents that manifest with specific cytopathic features.

The diagnoses of candida, trichomonas, herpes simplex virus, HPV and bacterial vaginosis can be reliably rendered on Pap smears.

Conventional pap smear (CPS) has its limitations. False negatives in CPS may be related to inadequate sampling, inadequate transfer of the sample onto the glass slide or deficiencies in the microscopic assessment of the slide. To overcome these problems, a new slide preparation method namely the Manual Liquid Based Cytology (MLBC) was introduced, where cells are uniformly dispersed by a membrane, from a suspension of cells in a polymer solution.

MLBC helps in detecting number of infestations like Candida, Leptothrix, HPV with koilocytic atypia and bacterial vaginosis, as observed by many authors and us also.

MLBC, which we are following is inexpensive, cost effective method which we have adapted and are comparing it with CPS for its adequacy and utility. The other advantages, is that the residual specimens can be used for ancillary testing like immunocytochemistry by cell block preparation.

**Results** Number of cases of bacterial vaginosis diagnosed by CPS were 8, LBC 9 and cell block were zero. trichomonas were 4, by CPS detection of non neoplastic conditions of cervix.

**Conclusions** Nearly twice as many are being tested in the intervention and testing rates are increasing. The high participation rate of clinics in all towns puts the study in a strong position to determine if a pragmatic intervention can reduce chlamydia prevalence.

**P5.020** DRIED BLOOD SAMPLES ON PHILTRE PAPER COULD BE A SOLUTION FOR SCREENING OF HIV AND SYPHILIS IN HARD TO REACH POPULATIONS  
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**Background** The high incidence of HIV and syphilis is a health problem in low-income, isolated and large populations, and one of the most affected sectors is the one of pregnant women. Therefore it is necessary to develop and implement methods and procedures to detect and follow new positive cases for those diseases.

The aim of this study was to demonstrate the usefulness of the collection of dried blood on philtre paper for the diagnosis of HIV and syphilis in pre-natal screening programmes in areas of difficult access.

**Methods** Dried blood samples on philtre paper were collected and sent to them by mail without any special condition to the laboratory to be processed. They were studied for the presence of antibodies against HIV or syphilis antigens by ELISA. Reactive samples were confirmed by employing a rapid immunochromatography test to both diseases. Finally, classification between HIV type 1 or 2 was performed by rapid immunoblot test.

**Results** Of the samples tested for HIV by ELISA, the 0.37% was positive, so 44 samples showed specific antibodies. They all confirmed when rapid immunochromatography test was used. In addition, 100% of the samples classified as HIV type 1 by using the rapid immunoblot test. In the case of the samples studied for syphilis by ELISA, the positive ones were the 3.12%, being confirmed by the rapid test all 41 positive samples.

**Conclusion** It was shown that the use of dried blood collected on philtre paper proved to be a cheap, safe and quick way for the screening of infectious diseases, such as HIV and syphilis, in populations as sensitive as pregnant women. It was also found that, although the test of choice for this type of work is the ELISA, other tests such as rapid tests can be used as a confirmatory test.