Background Adolescents commonly underestimate their own risk of chlamydia infections. We aimed to examine the association between chlamydia prevalence and perceived risk of infection, and the predictors of perceived risk, among 15–20 year old adolescents in Norway.

Methods This population based cross-sectional study among students in 5 high schools included a web-questionnaire and Chlamydia trachomatis PCR in first-void urine (participation rate 85%, girls 80%/boys 81%, mean age 17.2 years). Perceived infection risk was assessed using a 5-point scale: 1 = none, 2 = low, 3 = medium, 4 = high, 5 = very high. Multivariable logistic regression analysis was applied using stepwise variable selection with 5% significance level and binary outcome: ‘high’ (3–5) versus ‘low’ (1–2) risk.

Results Chlamydia prevalence according to risk level was: none 3.6%, low 4.4%, medium 8.2%, and high/very high 16.4%. 28 of the 58 infected participants perceived their risk to be none/low. In the multivariable model, following factors were associated with high perceived risk: ≥2 sexual partners past 6 months (odds ratio (OR) 5.6), number of lifetime partners 1–2 (reference), 3–5 (OR 2.7), or ≥6 (OR 3.7), previous treatment (OR 2.2), clinical symptoms (OR 1.9), no steady relationship (OR 1.8), first intercourse without condom (OR 1.5), and younger age (OR 0.78 per year). Significant interaction was present between gender and substance use (p = 0.024). Higher levels of substance use increased self-assessed risk only among boys. Among participants with low use, boys assessed risk higher than girls (OR 2.7). Among medium use participants, boys assessed risk lower than girls (OR 0.6). Among 665 participants perceiving none/low risk, both the 28 persons infected and a significant proportion of the non-infected scored on multiple chlamydia risk factors.

Conclusions Chlamydia prevalence increased with increasing perceived risk level. Mostly well-known chlamydia risk factors were significant in modelling risk perceptions. Adolescents need knowledge to more accurately assess their susceptibility to chlamydia infections.

**O23.5** "CIRCUMCISION MAKES THEM HALF MEN": CONCERNS ABOUT LOSS OF MASCULINITY MAY DETER ACCEPTANCE OF SAFE MEDICAL MALE CIRCUMCISION


P Lilleston, A V Marcelli, N Nakyango, L Leonard, M J Wawer. Department of Health, Behavior, and Society, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, United States; Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, United States; Department of Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, United States

Background Despite access to safe medical male circumcision (MNC) and the proven effectiveness of the procedure in reducing acquisition of HIV and other STIs, uptake remains relatively low in Rakai District, Uganda. Gender may play an important role in use of HIV prevention services, yet few studies have examined linkages between beliefs about what it means to be a man and acceptance of MNC.

Methods We explored this relationship in focus group discussions (n = 34 groups) with men and women in Rakai. Focus groups were conducted from May through July, 2012 with adolescent and adult males with a range of HIV risk and reproductive health service use profiles, and with adolescent and adult females. Data were analysed using Atlas-ti and an inductive approach.

Results Participants’ beliefs about manhood were grounded in the concepts of responsibility (signified through provision of economic and social stability in the family), independence, sexuality, fertility, and religiosity. While some participants described MNC as leading to more pleasurable sex and better hygiene, other aspects of MNC were perceived as threatening valued aspects of manhood. For instance, the post-surgical healing period required time off work and increased dependence on family support. Males worried about restrictions on sexual activity during the healing period and the perceived side-effects of the procedure, such as reductions in sexual drive. Some Christian participants equated male circumcision with religious conversion or the desecration of the body as God’s creation. Women reported that MNC could be an indicator of infidelity in a relationship, inciting conflict between sexual partners.

Conclusion In considering MNC, males weighed the potential benefits of avoiding HIV infection in the future against more immediate threats to their sense of self as men. Understanding how males and females view MNC is a crucial step towards increasing uptake of the procedure and reducing disease transmission.

**O23.6** FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE CONTRACEPTIVE CHOICE AND USE AMONG HIV DISCORDANT COUPLES IN KISUMU, KENYA


J B Odoya, B Rono, K Owuor, C R Cohen, E A Bukusi. Kenya Medical Research Institute, Nairobi, Kenya; University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, United States

Background Factors influencing choice and use of contraceptives among HIV discordant couples have important policy and programmatic implications for HIV and pregnancy prevention. We investigated factors among women and men in an HIV serodiscordant couple enrolled in a phase 3 clinical trial of Partners PrEP study.

Methods Prospective sub-study enrolled 385 men and women selected from 629 couples. Family planning counselling and contraceptives were offered to participants at each visit.