genital tract (FGT), which are target cells for HIV infection. Recently, CD4 Th17 cells have been identified to be more susceptible to HIV infection. Here, we investigated the impact of the combined contraceptive vaginal ring (CCVR, NuvaRing), combined oral contraceptive pills (COCPs) and NET-EN on Th17-related cytokines in the FGT of adolescent girls.

Methods This was a randomized crossover trial with a duration of 8 months. Adolescent girls between the ages of 15–19 were recruited and assigned to NET-EN, CCVR and COCPs in a 1:1:1 ratio. After four months, participants crossed over to another product for an additional four months. Cervical supernatants were collected at baseline, crossover and exit visits. Fifteen Th17-related cytokines were measured using Luminex multiplex assays.

Results A total of 130 participants were enrolled at baseline, with 107 reaching visit 2 (crossover) and 92 completing the final visit. Baseline characteristics were similar across arms. Median concentrations of Th17-related cytokine did not differ at baseline across all arms. In an intention to treat analysis (ITT) at crossover, intraindividual analysis of participants on CCVR showed an increase in IL-21 (p = 0.009), IL-1β (p = 0.007), TNF-α (p = 0.01) and IFN-γ (p = 0.016). We did not see any intraindividual differences within the NET-EN and COCPs arm. Comparison across arms at both crossover and exit showed elevated Th17-related cytokines (including IL-17A, IL-6, IL-1β, IL-33, TNF-α) in participants on CCVR compared to those on NET-EN and COCPs.

Conclusion In summary, the use of CCVR was associated with an increase in Th17-related cytokines compared to NET-EN and COCPs. Further studies are needed to investigate how these immune alterations in the FGT contribute to HIV risk in adolescent girls.

Disclosure No significant relationships.
recent partner change and/or self-reported vaginal symptoms such as thrush or BV in the preceding 3 months. These are all factors which would potentially impact vaginal microbiota.

Conclusion Pelvic inflammatory disease is known to be associated with sexual behaviour but a sexually transmitted infection is not always detected in PID. Here, we have found preliminary indications that a microbiota previously associated with sexually transmitted infection risk is also associated with PID. This is pilot data and further numbers are needed before conclusions can be reached.

Disclosure No significant relationships.

Background Vaginal dysbiosis has emerged as a key risk factor in HPV acquisition, persistence, and potentially cervical carcinogenesis. However, the biological mechanisms driving persistence and carcinogenesis have not been elucidated. Hence, our objective was to perform metabolic profiling of the cervicovaginal microenvironment to identify interactions between virus, host and microbes in the context of genital inflammation, dysplasia, and cancer.

Methods In a multicenter study, metabolic profiles of 78 premenopausal, non-pregnant women with low-grade (LSIL) and high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (HSIL), invasive cervical cancer (ICC), or healthy controls (HPV-positive and -negative Ctrl) were analyzed using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry. Metabolome and vaginal microbiome datasets were integrated using state-of-the-art bioinformatic tools (PICRUSt, AMON, and MIMOSA). Hierarchical clustering analysis (HCA) and principal component analysis (PCA) were employed to reveal the influence of genital inflammation, patient groups, and microbiota on metabolic profiles. Receiver Operating Characteristics (ROC) analysis was used to discriminate metabolites for each patient group. Statistical differences were tested using ANOVA or Mann-Whitney U test.

Results Metabolomes of ICC patients (n=468 metabolites) formed a distinct cluster on PCA and HCA plots, due to enrichment of membrane lipids. Amino acid and nucleotide metabolites were depleted in HPV-positive Ctrl, LSIL and HSIL groups (P<0.05). Microbial communities were predicted to alter amino acid and nucleotide metabolisms. Eicosanoate, 3-hydroxybutyrate, and oleate/vaccenate (AUC > 0.9, P<0.01) discriminated ICC from healthy patients. Sphingolipids and plasmalogens positively correlated with genital inflammation (Spearman’s rho > 0.7). Anti-inflammatory nucleotides, adenosine and cytokine positively correlated with *Lactobacillus* abundance (Spearman’s rho >0.5) and negatively correlated with genital inflammation (Spearman’s rho<-0.3). HCA of metabolites demonstrated that metabolic profiles were driven by cancer, genital inflammation and *Lactobacillus* dominance.

Conclusion The complex virus-host-microbe interplay within the cervicovaginal microenvironment lead to unique metabolic fingerprints that could be exploited for future development of diagnostics, preventatives or treatments to positively impact women’s health outcomes.

Disclosure No significant relationships.

Background CDC guidelines recommend gentamicin for the treatment of gonorrhea in cephalosporin-allergic patients. The efficacy of gentamicin in the treatment of pharyngeal gonorrhea, which is often undiagnosed, is uncertain.

Methods Between September 2018 – March 2019, we enrolled MSM with NAAT-diagnosed pharyngeal gonorrhea in a single-arm, unblinded clinical trial. Men received a single 360 mg intramuscular (IM) dose of gentamicin at enrollment and underwent test-of-cure (TOC) by culture 4-7 days later. The study measured cure rate at enrollment and TOC, serum gentamicin concentration post-dose to establish peak concentration (Cmax), and standard antimicrobial minimal inhibitory concentrations (MIC). The trial was designed to establish a point estimate for the efficacy of gentamicin for pharyngeal gonorrhea. We planned to enroll 50 evaluable subjects; assuming that gentamicin was 80% efficacious, the trial would establish a 95% confidence interval of 66%-90%. We planned interim analyses at n=10 and n=25.

Results The study was stopped early due to poor efficacy. Of 13 enrolled men, 10 were evaluable, and only two (20%, 95%CI: 2.5% - 55.6%) were cured. Of 2 concomitant rectal infections, both were cured. Efficacy was not associated with gentamicin Cmax (p=0.809) or MIC (p= 0.429). No participants experienced renal insufficiency; average creatinine percent change was 5% (range: -7%, 21%). Six (46%) subjects experienced headache; all deemed unrelated to treatment. On a scale of 0–10, mean injection pain was 2 (range: 1–7). Among subjects with history of bicillin (n=7) and/or ceftriaxone (n=8) IM injections, 86% believed IM gentamicin to be less painful than bicillin and 75% believed it was more painful than ceftriaxone.

Conclusion 360 mg of gentamicin failed to eradicate N. gonorrhoeae from the pharynx. Caution should be used when using the CDC’s current alternative therapy (gentamicin 240 mg plus azithromycin 2g) given increases in azithromycin resistance and gentamicin’s poor efficacy at the pharynx.

Disclosure No significant relationships.