more MSM, PrEP users and clients notified for or with symptoms of STI were seen during- and post-lockdown compared to pre-lockdown. Chlamydia positivity was around 18% among heterosexual men and 15% among women from 2016–2019, and increased to 21.1% and 16.6% respectively in 2020. Positivity increased during lockdown, up to 32% among heterosexual men, followed by decreases post-lockdown to pre-lockdown levels. Among MSM, the increase during lockdown was smaller, only slightly affecting overall positivity in 2020. Gonorrhoea positivity also increased during lockdown, causing further increasing trends among heterosexuals from 1.8% in 2011 to 2.2% in 2020 and among MSM from 9.0% to 12.1%. Syphilis positivity among MSM fluctuated between 2.0% and 2.9% in 2011–2020. Positivity peaked (6.7%) during lockdown, while the number of diagnoses was similar to pre-lockdown. In contrast, HIV positivity continued to decrease from 2.0% to 0.3% among MSM in 2011–2020.

Conclusion Prioritising persons at highest risk caused decreases in diagnoses, especially chlamydia and gonorrhoea, but increases in positivity. More information is needed to understand transmission dynamics, including testing at GPs, self-testing and sexual behaviour during coronavirus pandemic.

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VALUE OF CLIA SEROCONVERSION WITH NEGATIVE RPR AND IMMUNOBLOT FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF EARLY SYPHILIS

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Introduction An isolated CLIA seroconversion (i.e. CLIA-reactive, immunoblot non-reactive, RPR non-reactive, with a previous negative CLIA) could indicate a false positive result or early incubating syphilis. To confirm early syphilis, follow-up appointments are often needed. We wanted to evaluate the diagnostic value of such seroconversions.

Methods We included every patient with a positive CLIA (Liaison) and a negative RPR and immunoblot visiting the STI clinic (To) between January 2014 to April 2020, and a preceding visit with a negative CLIA in the 6 months prior to the initial consultation (T-1). If available, a follow-up appointment in the 2 months after the initial consultation (T1) was included. If darkfield microscopy (DFM) or PCR for *Treponema pallidum* was positive at T0, diagnosis of syphilis was confirmed. This also applied to a positive RPR and/or immunoblot in the T1 consultation.

Results We included 91 participants with an isolated CLIA seroconversion. The value of the CLIA seroconversion in 19/91 (21%) of the study population could not be established, since they had no positive PCR or DFM ulcer sample at To and had no T1 consultation. Of the remaining 72 patients, 54 (75%) the CLIA seroconversion was confirmed. 28/54 persons (52%) had a PCR or DFM confirmation in the initial consultation and 26/54 persons (48%) had a serologic confirmation in the follow-up appointment. In 18/72 (25%) persons the CLIA seroconversion was regarded as false positive reaction since no seroconversion in RPR or immunoblot was seen at T1.

Conclusion Of the evaluable patients with a CLIA seroconversion, 75% had an early incubating syphilis infection. 48% of these patients would benefit from presumptive treatment, since they had no signs of primary syphilis at the moment of the CLIA seroconversion. However, 25% had a false positive result, thus would receive unnecessary presumptive treatment.

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DISCORDANT CURES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH MYCOPLASMA GENITALIUM INFECTION IN MEN TREATED WITH AZITHROMYCIN FOR NONGONOCOCCAL URETHRITIS

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Background In men with nongonococcal urethritis (NGU), clinicians and patients rely on the resolution of urethritis signs and symptoms to determine the need for additional testing/treatment and when to resume sexual activity, respectively. Whether clinical NGU cure correlates with microbiological clearance across sexually transmitted infections (STI) remains unknown.

Methods Within the Idiopathic Urethritis Men's Project (IUMP), we identified men with mono-infection NGU due to *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Mycoplasma genitalium*, or *Ureaplasma urealyticum*. Men had presented to the Bell Flower Clinic in Indianapolis, Indiana, and were diagnosed with NGU and enrolled in IUMP. Men provided a urine specimen for STI testing by NAAT, received azithromycin 1gm and returned for a 1-month test-of-cure visit. At the test-of-cure visit, men were asked about interval antibiotic use, sexual activity, interval urethritis signs and symptoms, and repeat STI testing was performed. Clinical cure was defined as resolution of urethritis signs and symptoms. Microbiological cure was defined as clearance of STI at the test-of-cure visit. Significance was evaluated by Fisher's exact test.

Results Seventy-five men were included in this analysis, 52 with CT, 16 with MG, and 7 with UU. Clinical cure occurred in 50–100% and microbiological cure occurred in 31–100% of men. Discordant cures were more common in men with MG than CT (44% vs 15%, $p = 0.102$); no UU discordant cures occurred. Men with MG-NGU were significantly more likely to have a clinical cure with microbiological failure compared to CT-NGU (31% vs 4%, $p = 0.0042$). Clinical failure with microbiological cure occurred in approximately 10% of men.

Conclusions Discordant NGU cure outcomes do occur and are more common in men with MG-NGU. The most common discordant cure outcome was clinical cure with microbiological failure. In men treated with azithromycin for NGU, MG testing should be included and a test-of-cure considered to ensure STI clearance.

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CLINICAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF THE ALINITY M STI ASSAY

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