P384 ASSOCIATION OF CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS BACTERIAL LOAD WITH THE PRESENCE OF SYMPTOMS IN STI PATIENTS

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Urogenital infection with *Chlamydia trachomatis* is the most frequently diagnosed sexually transmitted infection (STI) worldwide. The term bacterial load refers to the measurable quantity of bacteria, typically in a clinical sample. This quantity has been associated with transmission ability and the clinical course of a number of infections. In this study, we set out to determine whether the presence of urogenital symptoms of *C. trachomatis* infection in women correlates with their quantified bacterial load.

Data from a cohort of 226 women patients (Public Health Service of Amsterdam, Infectious Diseases Department, STI outpatient clinic, Amsterdam, The Netherlands) who tested positive for urogenital *C. trachomatis* infection were used in this study. Patients were also tested for other concurrent STIs to exclude symptoms based on other common urogenital infections. In performing quantification of the Chlamydial load using quantitative PCR approach, the following primers were used: single-copy *OmpA* gene (MOMP), coding for the major outer membrane protein, and primers targeting the MHC class II antigen (HLA-DQA1) single-copy gene for eukaryotic cell determination. Quantification of HLA gene allowed for normalization of the sample (CT/cell determination). All values for MOMP and plasmid were normalized by means of endogenous control gene HLA. Exclusion criteria were unsuccessful amplification or presence of symptoms in samples with less than 0.01 MOMP/100 cells or and/or plasmids/100 cells that were simultaneously positive for other microorganisms. The latter criterium was introduced in order to ensure that the observed symptoms are not triggered by another urogenital pathogen.

The cohort comprises *C. trachomatis* serogroups B (51%), C (14%) and intermediate (27%). The remaining patient cases were mixed (8%). Currently we are in the process of finalizing the remaining analyses. Preliminary results show there is a relation with CT load and symptoms, as a function of the Cp PCR value, the HLA load and the performed correction.

P385 RISK, CULTURE, AND NEEDS CORRELATED TO HIV PROGRAM FOR YOUTH IN KOTA KUPANG, EAST NUSA TENGGARA (A QUALITATIVE STUDY)

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Background Young people of age 20–49 years were the biggest proportion (70's%) of cumulative Indonesian People Living With HIV AIDS (PLWHA). Kupang City as capital of East Nusa Tenggara is the entrance for development and has

consequences to HIV and STIs. We conducted qualitative research about HIV and ART for pregnant women. The risk, culture, and needs related to the youth arise as concern; therefore we accomplished separated data analysis. This paper aim is to describe the risk, culture, and needs correlated to HIV program for the youth in Kupang City, East Nusa Tenggara.

Method A qualitative research was accomplished in 2017 through in-depth interview and Focus Group Discussion with 55 informants. Discussions were about conditions, risk, culture, and needs that related to HIV programs. Themes that come up then combined to be concluded.

Results Youth in Kupang City have early sexual debut because lack of knowledge about reproductive health, which is considered taboo, while inhabit public lodgings as urbanite due to lack of schools in villages. Sex was trade for lifestyle and economic influences, while shaman provide access for abortion. Traditional marriage is very strongly held, while civil marriage delayed until the dowry fulfilled. Women position is lower and men higher position must be restrained. Increasing tourism area also increases the risks. Needs expressed were character reinforcement began on parents by alarming the community into being careful in preventing HIV transmission, fighting stigma by giving social positions to PLWHA, and intensive health promotion must be given at school.

Conclusion The risks of youth in Kupang City to HIV and STIs arise from lack of knowledge, separation from parents, delayed civil marriage, increasing tourism, and influence of lifestyle and economic needs. Approaches to improve HIV program for the youth need to respect the culture and tackle multidimensional problems.

P386 ACCEPTABILITY OF SELF-COLLECTED SAMPLES FOR DIAGNOSIS OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS AMONG TRANSGENDER WOMEN IN SÃO PAULO COHORT STUDY

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Background As a component of an ongoing cohort study measuring the incidence of HIV among transgender women in São Paulo, Brazil, this study assessed the acceptability of introducing self-collected sampling for the etiological diagnosis of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Etiological diagnosis would require sampling potential anatomical infection sites, including oropharyngeal, anorectal, urethral, neovaginal and urine samples.

Methods A convenience sample of 23 participants during a scheduled study visit were recruited to this study between October and November 2018. All participants reported being assigned male sex at birth and identified with a feminine gender identity at time of study, with one participant having gender-affirmative surgery to remove their male genitalia. Data collection was through a short investigator-led questionnaire in Portuguese, and included presentation of investigator-designed, gender-neutral instructional diagrams for self-sampling. Three supplemental focus group discussions guided by semi-structured script were conducted in Portuguese between September and October 2019.