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Asymptomatic lymphogranuloma venereum in known HIV positive MSM: is it more common than we think?

Mr Daniel Ward<sup>1</sup> Dr Meg Boothby<sup>2</sup> Dr Penny Goold<sup>2</sup> Dr Emma Hathorn<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup>University of Birmingham, UK <sup>2</sup>Whittall Street Clinic, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, UK



### **Background: LGV**

Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) is

caused by the L-serovars of *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) hyperendemic in men who have sex with men (MSM) in the UK associated with significant morbidity

proctocolitis

Ivmphadenitis and buboes  $\rightarrow$  genital lymphoedema

rectal cancer<sup>1</sup>

associated with concurrent sexually transmitted infections (STI)<sup>2</sup>



# **Background** [2]

Sexually Transmitted Bacteria Reference Unit (STBRU) recommends testing for LGV in men

Diagnosed with rectal CT by nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) <u>AND</u>

Symptomatic OR

Direct contact of LGV<sup>4</sup>

BUT recent UK studies have suggested asymptomatic LGV infection may be more common than previously reported (0.9% in  $2008^5$  - 20% in  $2012^6$ )

**STUDY AIM** 

To evaluate testing practice for LGV infection in MSM attending a large inner city sexual health and HIV clinic

### Methods

Participants identified by a search of the electronic patient record (EPR) system
1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014
Diagnosed with rectal CT using NAAT (Gen Probe Apitma Combo 2)
MSM

Data collection

Retrospective review of EPR

Clinical presentation, concurrent sexual infection, HIV status, diagnosis of LGV, treatment, contact tracing

### **Results: Overview**



\*NA not available

= Sample inadequate for testing or result not documented

### 0 known direct contacts of LGV

### **Results: Adherence to guidelines**



- 66% in line with national guidelines •
- 24 of 70 (34%) patients NOT screened for LGV despite reporting anorectal symptoms
- 86% in line with national guidelines
- of line with current guidance

• 72 of 513 patients (14%) screened out

## **Results: Concurrent STI**

40.6% of MSM with LGV infection had a concurrent STI



### **Results: Summary**

81% of LGV infection was diagnosed in known HIV positive MSM Consistent with recent national epidemiology (83%)<sup>3</sup> 41% of MSM diagnosed with LGV infection had a concurrent STI 16% of confirmed LGV infection was asymptomatic at diagnosis Comparable to most recent UK case-finding study<sup>6</sup> All asymptomatic infection was identified in HIV positive MSM All HIV negative MSM with LGV infection were symptomatic

### Limitations

Small numbers

Retrospective data collection

Do not screen asymptomatic MSM for LGV in routine practice
Therefore the true number of asymptomatic cases of LGV is likely to be even higher

### Conclusions

- Supports the strong association between LGV and HIV
- We are not correctly following national LGV testing guidelines Testing asymptomatic patients
  - Not testing all symptomatic patients with known rectal CT
- Incidence of asymptomatic infection in HIV-positive MSM may be higher than previously thought
- Studies needed to identify if routine screening for LGV in asymptomatic HIVpositive MSM is warranted

### References

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