UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES:
The potential impacts of the BASHH 2019 gonorrhoea guidelines

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Presented on behalf of co-authors
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BACKGROUND

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL TREATMENT

for SYMPTOMATIC contacts presenting within 14 days of exposure

CONSIDERATION

for epidemiological treatment for all ASYMMPTOMATIC presenting in same time frame

> 14 DAYS OF EXPOSURE:

Treated upon POSITIVE test

1. Public health England, Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles
METHODS

RETROSPECTIVE SERVICE EVALUATION:
- Level 3 sexual health service
- Gonorrhoea contacts
- 1st January 2018 – 31st December 2018

IDENTIFICATION OF PATIENTS:
- GUMCAD code, PNG
- n=207 patients

2019 guidelines retrospectively applied
DEMOGRAPHICS

Age: **25 years old** (IQR 21-31)

Ethnicity: White British/ Irish **83%** (171/207)

Sexual orientation:
- MSM **46%** (95/207)
- Women **30%** (62/207)

GONORRHOEA INFECTION

Prevalence: **43%** (89/207)

34% (30/89) Symptomatic infection

Chlamydia co-infection: **30%** (27/89)

65% (128/196) presented within 14 days
Highest among female and MSM contacts compared with heterosexual male (p<0.001)

No difference in infection between asymptomatic and symptomatic patients presenting within 14 days (p=0.49)

28% (24/87) presenting > 14 days were gonorrhea positive
RETURN FOR TREATMENT

31% (65/207)

DELAYS IN TREATMENT:
- Ongoing transmission of infection
- Increased complications
- Cost of return clinic visits

EXTRA COST PER GC CONTACT:
- >2weeks = £12.46
- <2weeks asymptomatic + >2weeks = £34.20
NO cultures:
• 28% (14/50) heterosexual men
• 23% (14/62) women
• 18% (17/95) MSM

CULTURE POSITIVITY RATE:
- Urethral cultures in men: 92% (12/13)
- Cervical cultures: 75% (15/20)
- Rectal: 54% (22/41)
- Pharyngeal: 40% (17/42)
CULTURE SENSITIVITY

- Ciprofloxacin 77% (37/48)
- Azithromycin 71% (34/48)
- Ceftriaxone 100% (48/48)

48% in patients over 14 days (10/21)
TEST OF CURE

ATTENDANCE:
54%
(48/89)

MEDIAN TIME TO TOC:
14 DAYS
(IQR: 14-15.5)
SUMMARY

01 Symptoms inadequate predictor of gonorrhoeal infection

02 Low culture positivity rate

03 TOC unreliable

04 Chlamydial co-infection is high and often not recognised
Thank you for listening
Any questions?