

WHAT DO CLINICIANS WANT FROM A DIAGNOSTIC TEST TO DETECT PELVIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASE? FINDINGS FROM INTERVIEWS WITH AUSTRALIAN CLINICIANS

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Background: Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) is underdiagnosed globally. It is a challenging diagnosis for many clinicians due to the wide variety of clinical presentations and lack of an accurate, non-invasive diagnostic tool. The development of a test that provides clinicians with an objective result for PID may be beneficial. However, there is currently no research that considers what clinicians would want from such a test.

Methods: We conducted semi-structured interviews with 11 clinicians in 2020, exploring what they would want from a new diagnostic test to detect PID, and when and how they may find it useful. Any clinicians currently working in Australian general practice, sexual health clinics, and/or family planning clinics were eligible. Thematic analysis was used to explore the data.

Results: Seven general practitioners, and four clinicians working in sexual health clinics were interviewed. Clinicians were aged between 31-58 years and were predominantly female (10/11). Just over half (6/11) diagnosed PID on a frequent basis (monthly or more). Clinicians discussed their requirements for test performance and the potential impact of a new test on patient experience. Clinicians said they would offer a highly accurate test with a quick turnaround time for symptomatic patients to confirm a diagnosis, or to rule out PID. While there was a clear need for more information about the prevalence and risks of subclinical PID, many clinicians thought that they would also offer a test to asymptomatic patients with a recent STI diagnosis. Clinicians identified several settings where a test would be useful, including emergency departments.

Conclusion: PID remains a challenging diagnosis for clinicians, and an accurate tool with a quick turnaround time to assist with diagnosing PID was seen by clinicians to be beneficial. A test will likely be useful for clinicians in various settings.

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