

Incidence of chlamydia and gonorrhoea in a university-based general practice

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Background:

Chlamydia and gonorrhoea infections are considerably higher in young people, aged 15-29 years. National surveillance data breaks these statistics down into age groups, however, no further information is known about characteristics of the population which could indicate higher risk groups that could be targeted in prevention and screening programs. The aim of this study was to determine the incidence of chlamydia and gonorrhoea in a university-based general practice clinic, and explore whether there were differences between patient sub-groups.

Methods:

A retrospective audit was conducted of electronic records at the MQ Health General Practice Clinic at Macquarie University, Sydney. Using the PenCS clinical audit tool, a list of patients who had been tested for chlamydia and gonorrhoea in 2019 was generated. Demographic data and the results of chlamydia and gonorrhoea tests for these patients were extracted and entered into a de-identified database using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences. Analysis will involve determining proportions of patients tested who had a positive chlamydia and/or gonorrhoea result. Comparison between sub-groups, based on age, gender, student status, and type of student (international or domestic) will be analysed with the chi-squared test.

Results:

The audit tool provided a list of 643 patients who were tested for chlamydia and gonorrhoea in 2019. Data entry and analysis is underway. Results will be provided about the incidence of chlamydia and gonorrhoea in this cohort, as well as whether there were any significant differences between the sub-groups analysed.

Conclusion:

Results from this study will assist the practice in providing sexual health education and screening in its practice population. Exploration of sub-groups will allow more accurate targeting of this messaging. The findings will be of use to other university health services, as well as contributing epidemiological data about the incidence of chlamydia and gonorrhoea in the Australian population.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

The authors of this study are staff and students affiliated with Macquarie University. Annabel Ferrari is the recipient of a GP Synergy scholarship for medical students. GP Synergy is the vocational training provider for general practice in NSW. The scholarship entails involvement in a research project in general practice. No pharmaceutical grants were received for the conduct of this study.

