

CLINICAL AUDIT: MANAGEMENT AND FOLLOW-UP OF PATIENTS WITH GENITAL CHLAMYDIA AT AN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONTROLLED HEALTH ORGANISATION.

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Background:

Chlamydia trachomatis is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in Australia, with long-term complications if left untreated. In Western Australia (WA), chlamydia notifications are three times higher in Aboriginal peoples.

Methods:

This audit compared clinical data on the management and follow-up of genital chlamydia at a WA Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO) with the Australian STI Management Guidelines Standards.

All 47 patients presenting with genital chlamydia in 2019 were included. Data from clinical records was analysed using simple descriptive statistics.

Results:

Ninety-six percent of patients received the correct antibiotic, dose and frequency. Eighty-three percent of patients received the correct antibiotic route. A stat dose of azithromycin was given in 96% of cases.

Fifteen percent of patients were advised to avoid sexual contact for 7 days after treatment administration.

Nineteen percent of patients were re-tested for chlamydia at 3 months. Of these, 22% tested positive for chlamydia.

Conclusion:

The majority of patients received appropriate treatment. However, there was low adherence to the STI Management Guidelines to advise patients to avoid sexual contact for 7 days after treatment administration.

There was also low adherence to the re-testing guidelines. This is complex and multifactorial. Many factors play a role, such as; transient patient population, difficulty contacting patients, transport, asymptomatic nature of chlamydia and shame or embarrassment.

Finding methods for organisations to increase the rate of re-testing will help identify and manage re-infection more rapidly with the potential for reducing prevalence.

The organisation is creating a culturally-appropriate chlamydia information sheet to reinforce the importance of the STI Management Guidelines Standards, and also to reduce the time spent on documentation. Discovering methods of improving

adherence to the guidelines, with a basis in culture, may assist to reduce the prevalence and morbidity of chlamydia in Aboriginal peoples into the future.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

No disclosure of conflict of interest.