Sexually transmitted infections in elderly people

Nelson David, Sasikala Rajamanoharan and Alan Tang

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Carbamazepine in Reiter’s syndrome

Editor,—A psoriatic spectrum with Reiter’s syndrome as the most severe manifestation occurs with greater frequency in HIV infected individuals. Immunosuppressive therapies for RS are associated with a poor response and increased morbidity.1 We describe a case where carbamazepine showed an excellent response in an HIV infected patient with Reiter’s syndrome.

A 30 year old married man presented with erythematous papules and plaques of 2 months’ duration covered with hard limpet-like scales on face, body, and both extremities (Fig 1). Pain and soles showed keratoderma blennorrhagicum and subungual hyperkeratosis with distal onycholysis. Both knees and wrists had painful swelling with restriction of movements. With this clinical presentation Reiter’s syndrome was inferred. All routine investigations were normal except a raised erythrocyte sedimentation rate of 100 mm in the first hour. X Rays of the affected joints were normal. ELISA for HIV-1 and HIV-2 was positive with two kits (Immunocomb, Tri-dot) and confirmed with western blotting technique (Speciality Ranbaxy Limited). The absolute helper T lymphocyte count was 435 cells x10/L. Human leucocyte antigen B27 and rheumatoid factor were negative. The patient was commenced on prednisolone by mouth 60 mg three times daily without any concomitant doses in addition to above. The erythema cleared rapidly within 7 days. To confirm the effect of carbamazepine, it was stopped. New lesions similar to the old ones appeared within 3–4 days. Carbamazepine was then reintroduced in the same dose. Erythema cleared again within 7 days followed by scaling and joint swelling and pain. New lesions stopped appearing. Prednisolone was then tapered off rapidly and analgesics were stopped. Carbamazepine was continued in the same dose for 6 months. On follow up at 1 year, the patient showed no recurrence of skin lesions and synovitis, no change in liver and renal function tests, with no further deterioration in his overall health and no opportunistic infections.

It has been proposed that in genetically predisposed people, the release of neuropeptides like substance P, calcitonin gene related peptide, vasoactive intestinal peptide, and the inflammatory leukotriene B4 from cutaneous sensory nerves causes local inflammatory responses that triggered psoriasis.2 Stimulated mast cells secrete a number of proinflammatory cytokines and proteases that act similarly.3 Carbamazepine significantly inhibits the uptake of noradrenaline.3 It blocks a cyclic AMP mediated calcium influx that is associated with neuropeptide release and control of a slow potassium current.4 The rapid clearing of erythema, secondary to raised levels of neuropeptides, with carbamazepine may have been mediated through inhibition of these neuropeptides and by inhibition of uptake of noradrenaline. The exacerbation and subsequent resolution of lesions on withdrawal and reinstatement of carbamazepine respectively proves its efficacy in our patient. Also, the clinical remission maintained for 1 year after stopping carbamazepine therapy was as good as the therapeutic role in Reiter’s syndrome. The therapeutic response seen in our patient conforms to that seen in the HIV-1 positive patient of Smith et al.5 This apparent success adds carbamazepine to the armamentarium against Reiter’s syn-drome in an HIV infected patient. This is the first reported case and an evaluation of long term carbamazepine therapy is warranted.

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Condoms and warts

Editor,—Wen et al6 should be applauded for their attempt to address the key question of whether or not condoms protect people from genital warts. However, some of the major study variables need clarification, as they did not match up with my knowledge of the Sydney Sexual Health Centre (SSHC) database.

The article discussed the issue of “acquisition of genital warts” and was presented as an incidence study. Cases were defined as: “All patients with a new diagnosis of macroscopic genital warts who attended SSHC [in 1999].” However, many of these patients had been previously diagnosed with genital warts elsewhere while others had recurrent lesions. In Australia, most genital warts are managed by general practitioners.7 Consequently, the experience of specialist services is biased towards recurrent and difficult cases. “New diagnosis” in this situation means new to the clinic but not necessarily new to the patient. This means that the main outcome measure was a mixture of incident, prevalent, and recurrent cases, with the possibility that the warts may have affected the behaviour of many of the study subjects.

The SSHC database does document whether a person has previously been diagnosed with HPV infection. To me, the study would have had more validity if patients with a history had been included.

The diagnostic grouping for warts at SSHC does not distinguish between genital and anal lesions. The readers of the journal need to know that many of these male “genital” wart cases would have been homosexually active men with anal warts. This is important as risk factors for penile and anal warts may differ, potentially confusing the results of the present study.

Finally, the referent group in the table describing condom use deemed as “Not applicable, no sex” should have been more accurately described as “No vaginal or anal sex in the previous 3 months.” Many of these people would have practised oral sex or other sexual acts during those 3 months. Others may have ceased practising vaginal or anal intercourse up to 3 months earlier because of their persistent or recurrent warts.

Large relational quality assured clinical databases can be powerful tools for health service evaluation, surveillance, and the generation of research questions. It may be prudent for researchers to engage the people responsible for designing and maintaining those databases to minimise errors of interpretation.

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Accepted for publication 20 March 2000

Reply

Editor,—We are grateful to Dr Dayan for her helpful and constructive comments. The major criticism of our paper relates to the selection of cases, and the possible inclusion of patients with a previous diagnosis of macroscopic genital warts who attended SSHC [in 1999].” However, many of these patients had been previously diagnosed with genital warts elsewhere while others had recurrent lesions. In Australia, most genital warts are managed by general practitioners. Consequently, the experience of specialist services is biased towards recurrent and difficult cases. “New diagnosis” in this situation means new to the clinic but not necessarily new to the patient. This means that the main outcome measure was a mixture of incident, prevalent, and recurrent cases, with the possibility that the warts may have affected the behaviour of many of the study subjects.

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Accepted for publication 20 March 2000

Reply

Editor,—We are grateful to Dr Dayan for her helpful and constructive comments. The major criticism of our paper relates to the selection of cases, and the possible inclusion
of prevalent and recurrent cases as well incident cases. However, our concern with this possible bias at the outset of the study led us to exclude all patients with a history of previous genital warts. This included those previously diagnosed at SSHC, and those who gave a history of having warts managed elsewhere. Consequently, when we state a new diagnosis of genital warts, this is precisely what we mean.

With regard to the conduct of the study, this was performed with the assistance of the current data manager responsible for the SSHC data base, whose help and assistance were duly acknowledged.

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Photosensitivity reaction to efavirenz

EDITOR,—The non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI) efavirenz is a recent addition to the armamentarium available to physicians in the treatment of HIV infection. However, at present the known side effect profile of this new agent is still in its infancy. We would like to report a case of photosensitivity associated with efavirenz.

A 27 year old white homosexual man was commenced on combivir (zidovudine/lamivudine) in February 1999 and due to his viral load, lamivudine was subsequently stopped in March 1999. One month later he reported that he was well and had no major side effects associated with his new combination. However, 4 weeks further into treatment he presented with an itchy rash affecting his arms and hands. On examination there was a maculopapular rash over the affected area but there was no oral ulceration, conjunctivitis, or fever. A drug reaction was diagnosed and he was prescribed antihistamines and asked to continue with his medication. One week later the rash had subsided. Then having spent a day outside in the sun he had a florid recurrence of the rash on his exposed areas (arms, back of neck, face, and ears). The rash was significantly worse over his elbows where there was obvious blisters and oedema. His medication was stopped and 3 weeks later the rash had completely resolved. Hepatitis C antibody and porphyria screening were negative. This man had been diagnosed as HIV infected in May 1989 his viral load was 356 790 copies/ml. One year later he was commenced on dual therapy (zidovudine/lamivudine) and efavirenz in March of 1999. This man had completely resolved. Hepatitis C antibody and porphyria screening were negative.

One month later he reported that he was well and improved to combivir and nevirapine which he initiated for a rash a few months before. With his medication. One week later the rash reaction was diagnosed and he was prescribed a combination. One month later, the rash had settled, he then commenced combivir and efavirenz.

Photosensitivity in the context of HIV has been reported as a presenting sign of underlying HIV infection in a number of cases.1 In addition to this prophylaxis cutanea tarda (PCT) has been reported in the context of HIV infection and has been associated with concomitant hepatitis C infection2; however, screening for both these conditions was negative. Switching from nevirapine to efavirenz in this context may have been regarded as unwise; however, of 19 patients who have been intolerant of nevirapine secondary to the development of rash, who have switched to efavirenz only nine have developed a mild to moderate rash, of which only two needed to discontinue therapy.1 Photosensitivity in the context of HIV infection may not be a presenting condition but also secondary to concomitant treatment.

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HIV associated cytomegalovirus retinitis in Melbourne, Australia

EDITOR,—We report the results of a 12 year review of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) associated cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis in Melbourne, Australia.

We conducted a retrospective review of all HIV infected patients diagnosed with CMV retinitis at Fairfield Hospital and the Alfred Hospital between 1984 and 1996, aiming to identify factors at diagnosis of CMV retinitis which were predictive of outcome. Both hospitals had the same protocol for the treatment of CMV retinitis and employed 3 monthly ophthalmological screening of all HIV infected patients with low CD4 counts aims to detect CMV retinitis before visual symptoms occur. It is possible that visual loss may be prevented by detecting disease before retinal damage occurs. A post-mortem evaluation is needed to confirm this finding.

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The presence of visual symptoms at diagnosis of CMV retinitis was predictive of the development of moderate visual loss (relative risk 2.1, 95% confidence interval 1.4–2.2). Fifty eight of 138 patients (42%) with visual symptoms at diagnosis developed moderate visual loss, compared with 16 of 64 patients (25%) who were asymptomatic at diagnosis (p=0.02). The presence of visual symptoms at diagnosis was not predictive of the development of severe visual loss, or early death (p>0.2). Other factors measured at diagnosis of CMV retinitis included the patients’ age, CD4 count, weight, visual acuity, and the presence of any previous AIDS defining condition. None of these was associated with the development of visual loss or early death (p>0.1).

The advent of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) has resulted in a reduction in the incidence of new diagnoses of opportunistic infections. Prolonged survival times with CMV retinitis have been demonstrated in patients who achieve immunological recovery with HAART.1 The ability to predict those patients who are at highest risk of visual loss may assist in advising those who may reasonably cease maintenance therapy for CMV retinitis following immune restoration.

An understanding of the natural history of CMV retinitis in the pre-HAART years remains important in managing patients who are failing HAART therapy.

The only factor measurable at diagnosis of CMV retinitis that was predictive of outcome was the presence of visual symptoms. The use of routine ophthalmological screening in HIV infected individuals with low CD4 counts aims to detect CMV retinitis before visual symptoms occur. It is possible that visual loss may be prevented by detecting disease before retinal damage occurs. A post-mortem evaluation is needed to confirm this finding.

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1 Pappert A, Grossman M, DeLeo V. Photosensi-
tivity as the presenting illness in four patients with human immunodeficiency viral infection. Arch Dermatol 1994;130:618–23.


4 O’Connor WJ, Murphy GM, Darby C, et al. Porphyria abnormalities in acquired immuno-

5 DuPont Pharmaceuticals Company Research Laboratories. Wilmington, DE. In-house data 1980/5.
Azithromycin v oxytetracycline for the treatment of non-specific urethritis

EDITOR,—Single dose azithromycin 1 g rather than multidose tetracyclines or erythromycin over several days for the treatment of chlamydial infections is becoming more widespread as patient acceptability and improved compliance outweigh cost considerations. However, in men, treatment is often initiated on the basis of subjective evidence of urethritis before the chlamydial result is available. Relatively few studies report the efficacy of azithromycin in the treatment of non-gonococcal non-chlamydial urethritis (NSU), but recently published evidence-based guidelines for the management of NSU recommend either doxycycline 100 mg twice daily for 7 days or azithromycin 1 g immediately.

In this genitourinary medicine clinic azithromycin became first line treatment for all proved or suspected chlamydial infections from 1 April 1998. This retrospective study assessed the efficacy of azithromycin for the treatment of NSU compared with oxytetracycline 250 mg four times daily for 7 days, the previous first line treatment regimen for men with microscopic urethritis in whom no Gram negative diplococci were evident.

NSU was defined as the presence of at least five polymorphonuclear leucocytes (PMNL) in five or more fields on microscopy of a urethral smear, irrespective of N. gonorrhoea present after direct plating onto modified New York culture medium and negative chlamydial screen on ELISA testing (Syva) of a urethral swab.

"Cure" was defined as either resolution of symptoms or clearing of previously positive two glass urine. A repeat urethral smear was not examined routinely.

"Treatment failure" was defined as persistent PMNL on microscopy of a urethral smear taken because of ongoing symptoms or persistent positive two glass urine test, with possibility of reinfection denied.

The results (see table 1) demonstrate that azithromycin is as effective as oxytetracycline in curing NSU, and produces fewer treatment failures, possibly owing to better compliance with single dose therapy. Compliance with multidose regimens might be expected to be less good in asymptomatic patients, but with no satisfactory "test of cure" this was difficult to ascertain. Overall, there was a 25% non-attendance rate for follow up, biased towards the asymptomatic patients and those treated with oxytetracycline.

Sexually transmitted infections in elderly people

Environ,—Jaleel et al recently presented the incidence of sexually transmitted infections and other conditions among elderly people attending a genitourinary medicine clinic.1 We, in our genitourinary medicine department at Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, studied the causes of non-attendance of elderly people and compared them with the younger age group. Data were collected from patients aged 60 and above who attended the clinic between January 1998 and December 1998. Randomly selected sex matched people aged 20–35 years are taken for comparison. A total of 68 elderly people attended the clinic. The mean age was 66.5 years (range 60–83); 61 (90%) were male and seven (10%) were female. Forty one (60%) attended for STI screening and 27 (40%) attended for non-STI management. In the younger age group 60 (98%) attended for STI screening and eight (12%) attended for non-STI management (p<0.001). Sixteen (24%) older attendees had an STI compared with 35 (51%) in the younger age group (see table 1). Of 16 people attended with suspected STIs 11(68%) waited over 2 weeks between symptom recognition and clinical attendance. Of 31 symptomatic attendees in the younger age group 10 (32%) waited over 2 weeks for symptom recognition and clinical attendance (p<0.001).

Table 1 Diagnoses of older and younger clinic attendees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Older (n=68)</th>
<th>Younger (n=31)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhoea</td>
<td>7 (10%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syphilis</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genital warts</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genital infection</td>
<td>1 (1.5%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other conditions</td>
<td>1 (1.5%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Among the 16 attendees with STIs, four (25%) reported sex with someone new and none reported sex with a regular partner during the 2 weeks prior to attending the clinic, indicating that many of these infections were acquired before the clinic attendance. One (6%) of the 16 attendees with STIs complained of persistent symptoms and the others were asymptomatic. All of the participants with STIs were white, male, and aged 60–83 years.

Many elderly people maintain heterosexual and homosexual activity. Therefore this age group is at a risk of all sexually transmitted infections.2 In our study, a smaller percentage of older attendees had STIs compared with previous studies.3 However, the number of older patients who attended for non-STI management was comparable. The delay between symptom recognition and healthcare presentation is a feature of STI related illness behaviour. The delay behaviour among individuals with suspected STIs is age specific, with longer latency periods experienced by people over the age of 50.4 This finding was seen in our study as well.

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Tertiary syphilis

EDITOR,—I read Dr Reed’s letter on tertiary syphilis5 with interest.

The regimen he describes for the treatment of early syphilis—arsenic, bismuth, and round the clock aqueous penicillin, was used in our hospital from 1946–8 although daily penicillin in beeswax was also used. It was unclear how much inactive penicillin K was in the commercial product used. The penicillin used here was higher than in Lincoln (40 000–75 000 units 3–4 hourly). There were 10 treatment failures (reinfections) out of 275 patients described.6 Treponema pallidum remains viable in the CSF even after adequate clinical treatment7


6 Many elderly people maintain heterosexual and homosexual activity. Therefore this age group is at risk of all sexually transmitted infections.2 In our study, a smaller percentage of older attendees had STIs compared with previous studies.3 However, the number of older patients who attended for non-STI management was comparable. The delay between symptom recognition and healthcare presentation is a feature of STI related illness behaviour. The delay behaviour among individuals with suspected STIs is age specific, with longer latency periods experienced by people over the age of 50.4 This finding was seen in our study as well.

7 Nelson David

Correspondence to: Dr Nelson David


The old adage that we achieve clinical but not microbiological cure of syphilis with antibiotics is probably true.

It is likely that most people in developed countries nowadays who have untreated syphilis have received treponemal inoculations for other intercurrent infections, so that any neurosyphilis that developed would either be modified with a few physical signs or would be completely treated and clinically cured. However, others disagree with this.

To answer Dr Reed’s question, we haven’t seen anyone treated since the second world war who has developed neurosyphilis in subsequent years.

DAVID GOLDMEIER

1 Reed TAG. Tertiary syphilis. Sex Transm Inf 1999;75:75.

Review of ABC of Sexual Health. Ed John Tomlinson. Pp 60; £14.95. London: BMJ Books, 1999. ISBN 0-7279-1373-5. I was delighted when the editor sent me this book and asked me to review it. I had looked forward with anticipation to the original series that were published in the BMJ. I had thought then that each article was just superb and now they are all neatly packed together in this ABC, I am of the opinion that this is an excellent book which achieves its aim completely. On the cover, it says “it is an ideal reference for doctors, nurses, students and all those not involved in the area of sexual health,” and Professor Adler adds in the foreword that this book will put the profession in touch with the real world, real people, with real problems, and fill a large gap in our knowledge.

John Tomlinson, the editor, has pulled together an excellent group of experts who have practical experience in the field and have managed to condense that experience into a series of short articles, all of which make informative, yet entertaining reading. In my opinion, no specific background is required to gain information from these articles and I have recommended specific sections of this book for individual patients who need to read about their problem.

Those of us who work in sexual medicine were amused that the BMJ had to carry a warning about the sexually explicit material inside and, indeed, John Tomlinson refers to this in the preface and admits that a very small number of readers were offended. However, given the general reticence in society about sexual matters, this is not surprising.

Sexual health is an essential part of having a happy and fulfilling life, and everyone who works in a caring profession should be comfortable when the conversation drifts into areas of sexuality. Patients, who often broach the topic with trepidation, need to be assured of a sensitive hearing. In my opinion, this excellent book will give anyone in the caring profession a good grounding in sexual matters, so that they can explore these areas with their patients when appropriate, without embarrassment and have some idea of likely strategies of management.

COLM O’MAHONY

NOTICES

International Herpes Alliance and International Herpes Management Forum

The International Herpes Alliance has introduced a website (www. herpesalliance.org) from which can be downloaded patient information leaflets. Its sister organisation the International Herpes Management Forum (www.IHMF.org) has launched new guidelines on the management of herpesvirus infections in pregnancy at the 9th International Congress on Infectious Disease (ICID) in Buenos Aires.

Pan-American Health Organization, regional office of the World Health Organization

A catalogue of publications is available online (www.paho.org). The monthly journal of PAHO, the Pan American Journal of Public Health, is also available (subscriptions: pubsvc@tsp.sheridan.com).

Imperial College School of Medicine, Division of Paediatrics, Obstetrics, and Gynaecology, Advanced Course for Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 19–23 June 2000

Further details: Symposium Office, Imperial College School of Medicine, Queen Charlotte’s and Chelsea Hospital, Goldhawk Road, London W6 0XG (tel: 020 8383 3904; fax: 020 8383 8555; email: symprec@ac. c.ac.uk).

Australasian Sexual Health Conference, Ven Troppo, Carlton Hotel, Darwin, Northern Territory, 21–24 June 2000

Further details: Shirley Corley, Conference manager, Dart Associates, PO Box 781, Lane Cove, 2066 NSW, Australia (tel: 02 9418 9398; fax: 02 9418 9398; email: dartconwy@mpx.com.au).

Imperial College School of Medicine, Division of Paediatrics, Obstetrics, and Gynaecology, Caring for Sexuality in Health and Illness (for healthcare professionals and nurses), jointly with Association of Psychosexual Nursing 27 June 2000

Further details: Symposium Office, Imperial College School of Medicine, Queen Charlotte’s and Chelsea Hospital, Goldhawk Road, London W6 0XG (tel: 020 8383 3904; fax: 020 8383 8555; email: symprec@ac. c.ac.uk).
Sexual Health and HIV Conference: Facing the Millennium, Portsmouth Marriott Hotel, Portsmouth, 28 June 2000
Further details: Rebecca Mitchell (tel: 023 9286 6796; fax: 023 9286 6769).

6th ESC Congress on Contraception in the Third Millennium: a (R)Evolution in Reproductive and Sexual Health, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 28 June–1 July 2000
Further details: Ogo-Med Congress Office, Mr Peter Erazd, Essenestraat 77, B-1740 Ternat, Belgium (tel: +32 2 582 08 52; fax: +32 2 582 55 15; email: orgamed@village.uunet.be).

Imperial College School of Medicine, Division of Paediatrics, Obstetrics, and Gynaecology, New Horizons in Recurrent Pregnancy Loss, 29 June–1 July 2000
Further details: Symposium Office, Imperial College School of Medicine, Queen Charlotte’s and Chelsea Hospital, Goldhawk Road, London W6 0XG (tel: 020 8383 3904; fax: 020 8383 8555; email: sympreg@ic.ac.uk).

Imperial College School of Medicine, Division of Paediatrics, Obstetrics, and Gynaecology, Bereavement, 5 July 2000
Further details: Symposium Office, Imperial College School of Medicine, Queen Charlotte’s and Chelsea Hospital, Goldhawk Road, London W6 0XG (tel: 020 8383 3904; fax: 020 8383 8555; email: sympreg@ic.ac.uk).

Imperial College School of Medicine, Division of Paediatrics, Obstetrics, and Gynaecology, Advances in Obstetric Medicine: International Meeting of Obstetric Medicine Societies (satellite to ISSHP, Paris, 6–7 July 2000
Further details: Symposium Office, Imperial College School of Medicine, Queen Charlotte’s and Chelsea Hospital, Goldhawk Road, London W6 0XG (tel: 020 8383 3904; fax: 020 8383 8555; email: sympreg@ic.ac.uk).

XIII International AIDS Conference, 9–14 July 2000, Durban, South Africa
Further details: Congrex Sweden AB, PO Box 5619, Linnegatan 89A, 114 86 Stockholm, Sweden (tel: +46 8 459 6600; fax: +46 8 601 91 25; email: aids2000@congrex.se).


Ethical Issues in International Health Research, Durban, South Africa, 16–21 July 2000 (immediately following XIII International AIDS Conference)
Further details: Marie-Christine Ryckaert, Program director, Ethical Issues in International Health Research, Harvard University, John F Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA (tel: (617) 495-0484 ex 7474; fax: (617) 495-3090; email: Marie-Christine.Ryckaert@harvard.edu).

12th Annual Meeting of the Spanish Association of Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy (AEPPCC) and HPV Clinical Workshop, 21–23 July 2000 and 18th International Papillomavirus Conference, 23–28 July 2000, Palau de Congressos, Barcelona, Spain
Further details: PACIFICO, SA, E Granados, 44, 08008 Barcelona, Spain (tel: +34.93.454.54.00; fax: +34.93.451.74.38; email: gp@pacifico-meetings.com).

MSSVCD Clinical Developments Fund
The MSSVCD Clinical Developments Fund is asking for applications for funding to support projects that advance the understanding and practice of genitourinary medicine. An amount of £10 000 is available to one or more successful applicant(s). Closing date for application is 25 August 2000. Further details: Dr Keith Radcliffe, Honorary Assistant Secretary MSSVCD, Whitall Street Clinic, Whitall Street, Birmingham B4 6DH (tel: 0121 237 5719; fax: 0121 237 5729; email: keith.radcliffe@bscht.wmids.nhs.uk).

3rd Congress of the Baltic Association of Dermatovenerology, 7–9 September 2000, Riga, Latvia
Further details: Professor Andris Y Rubins, Department of Dermatovenerology, Medical Academy of Latvia, K Valdemara Street, 76–75, Riga, LV-1013, Latvia (tel: +(371) 7373095; fax: +(371) 7361615; email: arubins@apollo.lv).

National NCCG Update Meeting, Bromsgrove Stakis Hotel, 23–24 September 2000
Further details: Kathy Taylor (tel: 01384 235207; email: palmtraining@tesco.net).

11th Regional Meeting of International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections, South East Asian and Western Pacific Branch and 24th National Conference of Indian Association for the Study of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS, 13–15 October 2000, Chandigarh, India
Further details: Dr Bhushan Kumar, Organising Secretary, 11th Regional Meeting of IUSTI–Asia Pacific (SE Asia and W Pacific Branch), Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy, PGIMER, Chandigarh - 160 012, India (tel: +91 (0172) 7455330; fax: +91 (0172) 744401/745078; email: kumarbhushan@hotmail.com).

Consortium of Thai Training Institutes for STDs and AIDS—10th STDs/AIDS diploma course, Bangkok Hospital, Bangkok (30 Oct–12 Nov) and Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Thailand (13–23 Nov) 30 October–23 November 2000
Further details: Dr Hat Yai Secretariat, Dr Ve- rapol Chandeeyng, Dept of OB-GYN, Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Songkla 90110, Thailand (fax: (66-74) 446 361; email: cverapol@ratree.psu.ac.th or Bangkok Secretariat, Dr Thanit Palanuvej, Bangkok Hospital, 189 Sathorn Road, Bang- kok 10120, Thailand (fax: (66-2) 286 3013; email: pthanit@ksc.net).

Consortium of Thai Training Institutes for STDs and AIDS—International Re- union and Refresher Course on Sexual Health, Lee Garden Plaza Hotel, Hat Yai, Thailand 24–26 November 2000
Further details: Dr Hat Yai Secretariat, Dr Ve- rapol Chandeeyng, Dept of OB-GYN, Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Songkla 90110, Thailand (fax: (66-74) 446 361; email: cverapol@ratree.psu.ac.th or Bangkok Secretariat, Dr Thanit Palanuvej, Bangkok Hospital, 189 Sathorn Road, Bang- kok 10120, Thailand (fax: (66-2) 286 3013; email: pthanit@ksc.net).

CORRECTION

CURRENT PUBLICATIONS

Selected titles form recent reports published worldwide are arranged in the following sections:

Gonorrhoea
Chlamydia
Candidiasis
Bacterial vaginosis
Trichomoniasis
Pelvic inflammatory disease
Syphilis and other treponematoses
Pelvic inflammatory disease
Trichomoniasis
Bacterial vaginosis
Candidiasis
Chlamydia
Gonorrhoea
Miscellaneous

Susceptibility to gonococcal infection during the menstrual cycle.
S NOWICKI, A HARTVANTASSELL, B NOWICKI. JAMA 2000;283:1291

‘Broken windows’ and the risk of gonorrhoea.

LV TORIAN, HA MAKKI, IB MENSIES et al. AIDS 2000;14:189–96

Rise in gonorrhoea in London, UK.
IMC MARTIN, CA ISON. Lancet 2000;355:623

Urine screening for gonococcal and chlamydial infections at community-based organizations in a high-morbidity area.
CA JONES, RC KNAUP, M HAYES, BP STONER. Sex Transm Dis 2000;27:146–51

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DL TREES, Y FAKEE, SW NEAL, JS KNAUP. Sex Transm Dis 2000;27:46–8

GM LI, Q CHEN, SC WANG. Sex Transm Dis 2000;27:115–8

Effects of the immunoglobulin A1 protease on Neisseria gonorrhoeae trafficking across polarized T84 epithelial monolayers.

Charged tmRNA but not tmRNA-mediated proteolysis is essential for Neisseria gonorrhoeae viability.
CH HUANG, WC WOLFGANG, J WITHEY et al. EMBO J 2000;19:1098–1107

Chlamydia

Acute primary Chlamydia trachomatis infection in male adolescents after their first sexual contact.

Evaluation of patient-administered tampon specimens for Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae.
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EL CIEMINS, CK KENT, J FLOOD, JD KLAUSNER. Sex Transm Dis 2000;27:165–7

Impact of switching laboratory tests on reported trends in Chlamydia trachomatis infections.

Detection of Chlamydia trachomatis in pregnant women by the Papanicolaou technique, enzyme immunoassay and polymerase chain reaction.

Multicenter evaluation of the AMPLICOR and automated COBAS AMPLICOR CT/NG tests for detection of Chlamydia trachomatis.

Chlamydial development is adversely affected by minor changes in amino acid supply, blood plasma amino acid levels and glucose deprivation.

Differential regulation of CD4 lymphocyte recruitment between the upper and lower regions of the genital tract during Chlamydia trachomatis infection.

T-cell epitopes in variable segments of Chlamydia trachomatis major outer membrane protein elicit serovarspecific immune responses in infected humans.

Candidiasis

Vaginal colonization by Candida in asymptomatic women with and without a history of recurrent vulvovaginal candidiasis.

Effects of reproductive hormones on experimental vaginal candidiasis.

Evaluation of the Oricult-N dipslide for laboratory diagnosis of vaginal candidiasis.

Clonal and spontaneous origins of fluconazole resistance in Candida albicans.

Mechanisms of the proinflammatory response of endothelial cells to Candida albicans infection.

Bacterial vaginosis

Bacterial vaginosis.
B NIEVES. Anaerobe 1999;5:343–6

Metronidazole to prevent preterm delivery in pregnant women with asymptomatic bacterial vaginosis.

Pre-term labor associated with bacterial vaginosis.
H CALDERAS, B NIEVES, A QUINTANA. Anaerobe 1999;5:403–4
Trichomoniasis

Resistance of Trichomonas vaginalis to metronidazole: report of the first three cases from Finland and optimization of in vitro susceptibility testing under various oxygen concentrations.


Antigenicity of Trichomonas vaginalis heat-shock proteins in human infections.


Pelvic inflammatory disease

Pelvic inflammatory disease—an evidence-based approach to diagnosis.


Influence of human immunodeficiency virus infection on pelvic inflammatory disease.


Direct medical cost of pelvic inflammatory disease and its sequelae: decreasing but still substantial.


Syphilis and other treponematoses

Unraveling the Tuskegee Study for untreated syphilis.


Nodular tertiary syphilis mimicking granuloma annulare.


Social network method for endemic foci of syphilis: a pilot project.

R Rothenberg, L Kienbrough, R Lewishardy et al. Sex Transm Dis 2000;27:12–8

Geographic variation of HIV infection in childbearing women with syphilis in the United States.

EH Koumans, M Sternberg, M Orwin et al. AIDS 2000;14:279–88

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From the CDC—syphilis elimination: history in the making—opening remarks.


From the CDC—syphilis elimination: history in the making—closing remarks.


Primary and secondary syphilis in the metropolitan area of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee—1996 to 1998 epidemic described.

JS Huang, WB Rogers, SBC Bailey. Sex Transm Dis 2000;27:168–74

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Vaccine 2000;18:Suppl 1 (whole issue)

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DL Thomas. Hepatology 2000;31:790–806

45-Year follow-up of hepatitis C virus infection in healthy young adults.


Prevalence of hepatitis G virus infection in patients with hemophilia and their steady female sexual partners.


Are booster immunizations needed for lifelong hepatitis B immunity?


Cellular and humoral immune responses induced by intradermal or intramuscular vaccination with the major hepatitis B surface antigen.


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Medical care expenditures for genital herpes in the United States.


Herpes simplex virus DNA in amniotic fluid without neonatal infection.


The herpesvirus proteases as targets for antiviral chemotherapy.


Monoclonal antibodies suitable for type-specific identification of herpes simplex viruses by a rapid culture assay.


Establishment of latent herpes simplex virus type 1 infection in resistant, sensitive and immunodeficient mouse strains.


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Establishment of latent herpes simplex virus type 2 infection in developing world: is it time to address this disease?

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GC. Pereng, C. Jones, J. Ciaccianella et al.  
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M. Viecki, E. Fukuaka, P. Nieminen, M. Hakama.  

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E. Adam, Z. Berko, Z. Daennerova et al.  

Evaluation of a human papillomavirus assay in cervical screening in Zimbabwe.  
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R. Herrera, A. Hildeshiem, C. Breitti et al.  

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Cervical cytology and colposcopy

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Prevalence and risk factors for human herpesvirus 8 infection in northern Cameroon.
G REZZA, OB TCHANGMENA, M ANDREONI et al. Sex Transm Dis 2000;27:168–74

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Evidence of declining STD prevalence in a South African mining community following a core-group intervention.
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High prevalence of asymptomatic STDs in incarcerated minority male youth—a case for screening. 

Microbiology and immunology

Effects of contraceptive method on the vaginal microbial flora: a prospective evaluation. 

Intravaginal practices, vaginal flora disturbances and acquisition of sexually transmitted diseases in Zimbabwean women. 

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LR Rare, SL Hillier. Sex Transm Dis 2000;27:74–8

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New policy on circumcision—cause for concern. 

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Implications of asymptomatic endocervical leukocytosis in infertility. 
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Sexual behaviour, STDs and risks for prostate cancer.

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