Chlamydia and Gonorrhea: Epidemiology, Diagnosis, and Management

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Chlamydia and Gonorrhea: Current Epidemiology

Chlamydia Epidemiology

- Public health problem worldwide
- Incidence in the U.S. increasing and at highest rates ever
 - ->1.3 million cases reported in 2010
 - Previously estimated >3 million new cases annually
- Majority of men and women with chlamydia are asymptomatic

Chlamydia Epidemiology

- Highest rates in younger people
 - -Age < 30 years
- Highest rates in the Southeast U.S.
- Rates 8x higher in African Americans vs. Caucasians
- Reinfection common within months (10-20%)

Chlamydia Epidemiology

- Significant morbidity
 - -Especially in women
- Costly disease

CDC STD Surveillance, 2010 Report











Gonorrhea Epidemiology

- Incidence in the U.S. declined in the 80's and 90's, and has remained relatively stable since
 - -> 309,000 cases reported in 2010
 - Previously estimated > 600,000 new cases annually
- Majority of women with gonorrhea are asymptomatic

Gonorrhea Epidemiology

- Significant morbidity
 - -Especially in women
- Highest rates in younger people
 - Age < 30 years</p>
- Rates 18x higher in African Americans vs. Caucasians
- Highest rates in the Southeast, and in inner cities













Chlamydia and Gonorrhea: Clinical Presentation

Uncomplicated Chlamydia or Gonorrhea: Males

- Urethritis
 - -Most common manifestation
 - Other uncomplicated manifestations include conjunctivitis, pharyngitis [GC] and proctitis

Uncomplicated Chlamydia or Gonorrhea: Males

- -Chlamydia usually asymptomatic
 - Over 50%
- Acute gonorrhea often symptomatic
- Co-infection with gonorrhea and chlamydia common

Uncomplicated Chlamydia or Gonorrhea: Males

- -Symptoms and signs
 - Urinary discomfort
 - Urethral discharge
 - > 5 PMNs/oif on urethral Gram stain

Uncomplicated Chlamydia or Gonorrhea: Males

- Intracellular Gram-negative diplococci on urethral Gram stain
 - -Presumptive GC diagnosis







Uncomplicated Chlamydia or Gonorrhea: Females

- Cervicitis
 - -Most common manifestation
 - Other uncomplicated manifestations include urethritis, bartholinitis, proctitis, conjunctivitis, and pharyngitis [GC]

Uncomplicated Chlamydia or Gonorrhea: Females

- Majority are asymptomatic
 - Over 75% for chlamydia
- -Symptoms nonspecific
 - Vaginal discharge
 - Intermenstrual bleeding
 - Painful sex

Uncomplicated Chlamydia or Gonorrhea: Females

- Abdominal pain
- Dysuria

Uncomplicated Chlamydia or Gonorrhea: Females

- Cervicitis
 - -Signs
 - Cervical examination usually normal
 - Mucopurulent discharge from endocervix
 - Easily induced endocervical bleeding





Complications

- Upper Genital Tract Infection
 - Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) in women
 - -Epididymitis in men

Complications

- Complications from Upper Genital Tract Infection
 - -Infertility
 - Women and men
 - -Ectopic pregnancy

Complications

- Other complications
 - -Reactive arthritis (Chlamydia)
 - Disseminated infection (Gonorrhea)
 - Increase in HIV transmission/acquisition risk

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea: Screening Recommendations and Diagnostic Testing

Screening Considerations: Chlamydia

- Routine annual chlamydia screening for all sexually active females <25yo and those >25yo with risk factors (new or multiple sex partners) is recommended by the CDC
 - Screening 15-25yo females is a HEDIS measure

Screening Considerations: Chlamydia

- Routine chlamydia screening in males not recommended
 - CDC recommends screening males in high chlamydia prevalence venues or when resources permit

Screening Considerations: Chlamydia

- Compliance with screening recommendations is low
 - This can be significantly improved with availability of nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs) that can be performed on urine or vaginal swabs

Screening Considerations: Chlamydia

 Screening, universal or selective, can have a dramatic impact on prevalence and complications of chlamydia

Marrazzo et al. Sex Transm Dis 1997;24
- Scholes et al. N Engl J Med 1996;334

Screening Considerations: Gonorrhea

- Gonorrhea screening recommended in subjects with risk factors and in areas of high gonorrhea prevalence
- Most nucleic acid amplification tests include gonorrhea testing along with chlamydia testing

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Diagnosis

- Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (Chlamydia and Gonorrhea)
 - CDC recommended test for diagnostic or screening purposes
 - Highly sensitive (>90%) and specific (98-99.9%) test on urogenital specimens

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Diagnosis

- Can be performed on first void urine, genital swabs, rectal swabs, or oropharyngeal swabs
 - Not FDA approved for rectal or oropharyngeal swabs
- Facilitates screening, especially when exam not feasible

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Diagnosis

- CDC recommends the following specimens for routine screening:
 - First-void urine in men
 - Vaginal swab in women
 - -Patient or provider-collected

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Diagnosis

- Gram Stain of Genital Swab
 Specimen (Gonorrhea)
 - -Useful in symptomatic men for presumptive GC diagnosis
 - 95% sensitivity
 - Limited utility (low sensitivity) in asymptomatic men

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Diagnosis

- Culture (Gonorrhea)
 - Performed on anogenital or oropharyngeal swab specimens, not urine
 - -Less sensitive (detects less infection) than NAAT
 - Useful if antimicrobial susceptibility testing desired

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea: Treatment

2010 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines

- Uncomplicated chlamydia: nonpregnant
 - -Recommended:
 - Azithromycin 1 g PO single dose OR
 - Doxycycline 100 mg BID 7 days

2010 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines

- -Alternative:
 - Erythromycin base 500 mg QID 7 days
 - Ofloxacin 300 mg BID 7 days
 - Levofloxacin 500 mg daily 7 days
 - Quinolones approved for adolescents >45kg

2010 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines

- Uncomplicated chlamydia in pregnancy
 - -Recommended:
 - Azithromycin 1 g PO single dose OR
 - Amoxicillin 500 mg PO TID x 7 days

2010 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines

- -Alternative:
 - Erythromycin base 500 mg QID 7 days





Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP)

- Since 2000, GISP reported 20 isolates with decreased susceptibility to cefixime
 - -MICs of 0.5 µg/ml

Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP)

- 9 isolates with decreased susceptibility to cefixime were reported in 2010
 - -7 were from the West
 - Honolulu, Los Angeles, Portland, and San Francisco

Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP)

- -2 were from the Midwest
 - Chicago and Cleveland
- -8 were from MSM

2010 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines

- Uncomplicated Gonorrhea
 - -Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM

PLUS

Azithromycin 1 g OR Doxycycline
100 mg BID x 7d

2010 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines

- If Ceftriaxone IM not an option, then Cefixime 400 mg PO is an alternative choice
 - Do not use cefixime if GC pharyngitis suspected
- For patients with severe PCN allergy, azithromycin 2 g is an alternative choice

Other Treatment Issues

- No test of cure in non-pregnant persons unless symptoms persist or re-exposed
- Test of cure with NAATs > 3 weeks post-therapy in pregnant women

Other Treatment Issues

- Re-screen all patients with chlamydia or gonorrhea in about 3 months post-treatment
 - Due to high recurrence rate
- Repeat positive tests most likely due to reinfection
 - -Untreated or new partner

Other Treatment Issues

- Sexual partners should be evaluated and treated
 - Recommend abstinence until patient and partner treated

Partner Treatment

- Self-referral
 - -Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)
 - Patient-delivered or providerdelivered
 - Consider for partners of heterosexual patients with chlamydia and/or gonorrhea
 - Not yet standard of care

Partner Treatment

- Has advantages and disadvantages
- Legal issues



Summary

- The majority of chlamydia-infected individuals are asymptomatic
- Sexually active adolescents and young adults are at highest risk for chlamydia and gonorrhea
 - Annual chlamydia screening is recommended for this population

Summary

- Repeat chlamydia screening recommended 3 months post-therapy
- Compliance with chlamydia screening is low

Summary

- NAATs are the recommended test
 - Both chlamydia and gonorrhea testing performed
 - Testing can be performed on noninvasive specimens, which could improve compliance with screening

Summary

- Cephalosporin resistance is a future concern in GC treatment
- Partner treatment is crucial for preventing re-infection
 - EPT is an evolving strategy for partner treatment