

Sexual Health

Contents

Volume 3 Issue 1 2006

Genital herpes vaccine—cause for cautious optimism <i>L. J. Haddow and A. Mindel</i>	1–4	The high prevalence of herpes simplex virus infections, the many serious physical and psychological complications of infection and its importance in enhancing HIV transmission, make this virus an obvious target for prevention by vaccination. This paper reviews the published results of vaccine trials and discusses issues raised, including why the vaccine works only in HSV1 seronegative women, who should be considered for vaccination and possible societal barriers to vaccination.
Current issues in the use of colposcopy for examination of sexual assault victims <i>D. J. Templeton and A. Williams</i>	5–10	Colposcopy has been shown to be a sensitive and acceptable tool for detection of anogenital abnormalities in children. However, the significance of some genital findings remains controversial, especially when inexperienced clinicians interpret images. Its use in adult assessments is hampered by a lack of comparative studies on colposcopically detected genital injuries in adults following consensual v. non-consensual sexual intercourse. Further research is urgently needed before the use of colposcopy can be routinely recommended for adult victims.
Prevalence and typing of human papilloma virus (HPV) among female sex workers and outpatient women in southern Thailand. <i>V. Chandeying, S. M. Garland and S. N. Tabrizi</i>	11–14	In Thailand, testing for the human papilloma virus (HPV) and typing are gradually becoming part of cervical screening and treatment strategies. This study compared the prevalence of HPV among a high-risk population, female sex workers, with women attending outpatient gynaecological clinics, in southern Thailand. Higher prevalence was detected in the sex worker group.
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> infection in the family planning clinical setting across New South Wales <i>D. J. Bateson, E. Weisberg and H. Lota</i>	15–20	This study investigates the prevalence of <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> in young women visiting family planning centres across New South Wales. The demographic and sexual health characteristics of infected young women are also evaluated. The relatively high prevalence supports the role of targeted testing for chlamydial infection in this setting.
Listening to female sex workers in Vietnam: influences on safe-sex practices with clients and partners <i>D. Rosenthal and T. T. K. Oanh</i>	21–32	This study assessed HIV/AIDS knowledge and frequency of, and influences on, condom use with clients and regular, non-client partners among female sex workers in central Vietnam. Although most respondents were well informed about HIV transmission, about 1/3 had inaccurate beliefs about HIV-positive people and mother-to-child transmission. Condom use was inconsistent. There were no apparent relationships between HIV knowledge, time in sex work and safe-sex practices.
Early childhood experience with atazanavir in treatment-experienced patients <i>S. Jeganathan, D. Smith and J. Gold</i>	33–36	Atazanavir is a newly approved protease inhibitor following successful clinical trials in naive and treatment-experienced patients. This paper describes early experience with ATV in treatment-experienced patients attending a single ambulatory care clinic in Sydney.
Estimating population distribution and HIV prevalence among homosexual and bisexual men <i>D. Madeddu, A. Grulich, J. Richters, J. Ferris, J. Grierson, A. Smith, B. Allan and G. Prestage</i>	37–43	Although comprehensive data are available regarding HIV incidence, prevalence, transmission exposure and risk behaviours, it has hitherto been difficult to generate an accurate estimate of the size of the primary at-risk population: homosexually active men. Data from the 2000/2001 Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey, Australian Study of Health and Relationships and Australian Household Census were re-analysed to estimate the extent of the homosexual and bisexual male population in inner Sydney and HIV prevalence within this population.
Risk factors for HIV seroconversion in homosexual men in Australia <i>J. E. Volk, G. Prestage, F. Jin, J. Kaldor, J. Ellard, S. Kippax and A. E. Grulich</i>	45–51	This paper investigates behavioural risk factors for 103 men from Sydney and Melbourne who had newly acquired HIV infection through homosexual contact. The focus is on the sexual risk behaviour that occurred at the high-risk event, which the participants thought had led to their HIV seroconversion.
The price of guidelines: revising the national guidelines for managing Australian women with abnormal Pap smears <i>H. Mitchell</i>	53–5	Revised Australian guidelines for managing women with abnormal Pap smears have been approved by the National Health and Medical Research Council. Development of the guidelines was intensely controversial. This paper by a member of the committee that revised the guidelines provides a personal reflection on the process and its attendant difficulties.

Age of sexual initiation and HIV-related behaviours: application of survival analysis <i>H. Yang, X. Li and D. C. Barth-Jones</i>	57–58	Previous studies have consistently suggested positive associations between early sexual initiation and subsequent risky sexual behaviours, HIV/STI infection, adolescent pregnancy and substance use. In the present study, survival curves for rural-to-urban migrants in China with and without HIV-related behaviours were analysed to determine (1) the risk of initiating sex at each age and (2) the association between sexual initiation and HIV-related behaviours.
Was this the result you were expecting? <i>P. Higgs</i>	59–60	This personal perspective is a discussion about diagnosing someone with HIV. It is an issue that many people in the health field may have to deal with in their own work. The issues raised in the article help to better understand an HIV result not just for the patient but also for the practitioner.
Book Reviews		
Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV <i>Reveiwed by John White</i>	61	
Doing it Down Under: The Sexual Lives of Australians <i>Reviewed by Stuart Aitken and Michael Stone</i>	62	