

Sexual Health

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An early warning sign: sexually transmissible infections among young African American women and the need for preemptive, combination HIV prevention <i>A. M. Fasula, K. S. Miller and M. Y. Sutton</i>	261–263	Young African American women are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS and sexually transmissible infections. In addition, behavioural, biological, and social circumstances signal the potential for the HIV epidemic to become more entrenched, and possibly shift from a concentrated to a generalised epidemic among African Americans. We outline key components of combination sexual risk prevention for adolescent African Americans that integrate biomedical, behavioural, and structural strategies and include elements for pre-risk as well as high-risk youth.
Acceptance of human papillomavirus vaccination among first year university students in Hong Kong <i>W. C. W. Wong, B. Fong and P. K. S. Chan</i>	264–270	A cross-sectional survey was conducted to assess sexual attitudes and behaviour of first year university students in Hong Kong and to identify factors affecting their acceptance of the new human papillomavirus vaccine. Of 992 students, 70.8% were willing to accept the vaccine, with 'willingness' independently associated with age, previous sexual experience and beliefs regarding its effectiveness. Understanding the role of these influences can aid the design of a successful vaccination program.
Sexual risk-taking in the general population of Sweden (1989–2007) <i>C. Herlitz</i>	271–279	The aim of this study was to assess changes in sexual attitudes and sexual behaviour related to HIV/sexually transmissible infections during a period of intensive efforts to curb the spread of HIV in Sweden. Mailed questionnaire surveys were conducted in random samples of the Swedish general population (total $n = 16\,773$). The study shows a significant increase in sexual risk behaviour, particularly in the younger age groups.
High incidence of syphilis in HIV-positive homosexual men: data from two community-based cohort studies <i>F. Jin, G. P. Prestage, I. Zablotska, P. Rawstrone, J. Imrie, S. C. Kippax, B. Donovan, D. J. Templeton, J. M. Kaldor and A. E. Grulich</i>	280–283	In two community-based cohort studies in homosexual men in Sydney, syphilis incidence was 10-fold higher in HIV-positive than in HIV-negative men. The higher incidence in HIV-positive men did not appear to be related to lower immunity due to HIV infection. To curb the syphilis epidemic, this study suggests that interventions targeted towards highly sexually active HIV-positive men are likely to be most effective.
A longitudinal analysis of sociodemographic and health correlates of sexual health among HIV-infected men in the USA <i>W. L. Jeffries IV, B. A. Zsembik, C. W. Peek and C. R. Uphold</i>	284–291	We investigated correlates of and changes in sexual activity, erectile function, sex drive, and sex life satisfaction among HIV-infected men in the USA. Temporal change in these sexual health indicators was common, although most men maintained their levels of sexual health over time. Change was associated with sociodemographic and physical and mental health covariates.
Attitudes and beliefs about HIV/AIDS behaviour and education among Tanzanian youth <i>E. Maswanya, G. Brown and G. Merriman</i>	292–298	This study examined the risky sexual behaviours of youth towards HIV infections in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, from their own perspectives, where more than 80% of infections occurs through unprotected sexual intercourse. Students are in a state of denial, because these behaviours become more complicated with the involvement of exchange of gifts, money, use of alcohol and drugs. There is an urgent need for educating the risks involved in their behaviours to Tanzanian youth.
Condom failure among men receiving sexually transmissible infection clinic services, Cape Town, South Africa <i>S. C. Kalichman, L. C. Simbayi, D. Cain and S. Jooste</i>	299–303	Condom failures negate their protection against sexually transmissible infections (STI). We examined condom failures among men receiving STI clinic services in Cape Town South Africa. One in three men reported a history of condom failure. Condom failure was associated with sexual exchange, alcohol and drug use, and higher rates of unprotected vaginal intercourse. Men with a history of condom failure were significantly more likely to have an STI diagnosis over the subsequent year.
An HIV-1 integrase genotype assay for the detection of drug resistance mutations <i>A. C. Hearps, V. Greengrass, J. Hoy and S. M. Crowe</i>	304–308	An in-house HIV-1 integrase genotyping assay was designed to enable the detection of mutations which confer resistance to the integrase inhibitor antiretroviral drugs. The assay genotypes the entire integrase gene and was validated using clinical samples. Results show the assay is accurate, reproducible and suitable for use with a range of different HIV-1 subtypes.

<p>The role of drugs during group sex among gay men in Australia G. Prestage, J. Grierson, J. Bradley, M. Hurley and J. Hudson</p>	309–316	<p>In an anonymous, self-complete survey of Australian homosexually active men who reported having engaged in group sex we found they commonly used drugs specifically to enhance their sexual experience. In multivariate analysis, methamphetamine and heavy alcohol use were independently associated with unprotected anal intercourse with non-HIV seroconcordant partners. Sexually adventurous gay men often use drugs for sexual pleasure and this may be key to understanding HIV risk among these men.</p>
<p>Inside the ordering room: characteristics of women's in-home sex toy parties, facilitators and sexual communication D. Herbenick, M. Reece and A. Hollub</p>	317–326	<p>Using an internet-based survey of female in-home sex toy party facilitators in the USA, the capacity of the facilitators to serve as resources for sexuality information was explored. In addition, facilitators' scores on a measure of erotophobia-erotophilia were assessed in relation to whether they were asked questions related to sexual function.</p>
<p>Pilot study of Australian school-based sexual health education: parents' views A. Macbeth, P. Weerakoon and G. Sitharthan</p>	327–332	<p>Australian parents were surveyed in 2007 about sexual health education (SHE) in schools. It was found that parents support SHE in schools, they want programs to begin in primary school, they consider the current school programs to be 'fair' in quality, they want a more comprehensive curriculum, and they want to be involved with schools in the development and delivery of SHE.</p>
<p>Metronidazole resistance in <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> from highland women in Papua New Guinea J. A. Upcroft, L. A. Dunn, T. Wal, S. Tabrizi, M. G. Delgadillo-Correa, P. J. Johnson, S. Garland, P. Siba and P. Upcroft</p>	333–337	<p><i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> remains highly prevalent among women in the Papua New Guinea highlands. Preliminary screening of the isolates obtained from women in the Goroka region indicated an unexpectedly high level of metronidazole resistance <i>in vitro</i> which may translate into clinical significance. We propose that monitoring of this or any other region of concern for the spread of metronidazole-resistant or particularly pathogenic strains is possible and should be considered.</p>
<p>Prevalence of <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> infection among young reproductive age women in India: implications for treatment and prevention P. Madhivanan, M. T. Bartman, L. Pasutti, K. Krupp, A. Arun, A. L. Reingold and J. D. Klausner</p>	338–343	<p>This study examines the correlates and prevalence of <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> infection among young reproductive age women in Mysore, India. The burden of infection at 8.5% is relatively high among a community sample of ever married young women. Since this infection increases the risk of HIV transmission and is associated with adverse pregnancy outcomes, there is a need for increased screening and treatment of this easily curable sexually transmissible infection in India.</p>
<p>Treatment of metronidazole-resistant <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> L. M. Goldman, J. A. Upcroft, K. Workowski and A. Rapkin</p>	344–346	<p>A 58-year-old woman with a 14-month history of metronidazole and tinidazole highly resistant trichomonas vaginalis is successfully treated and cured through perseverance and collaboration, by using a compounded topical furazolidone regimen.</p>
<p>Social marketing strategy to increase awareness of non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (NPEP) followed by increased NPEP awareness and more appropriate use R. Bangor-Jones, D. Mak, S. Laing and G. Brown</p>	347–348	<p>Effectiveness of non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (NPEP) to prevent establishment of HIV infection depends on reaching those at highest risk. A social marketing strategy in Western Australia was developed to increase awareness of NPEP among gay men, other at risk groups, and health care providers. This letter describes the characteristics of NPEP usage, and awareness of NPEP among the gay community, before and after the start of the campaign.</p>
<p>Oral abstracts from the 2009 Australasian Sexual Health Conference – Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia</p>	349–386	