

PREVALENCE OF STI/RTI AND HIV INFECTION IN PERSONS ATTENDING AT THE HEALTH FACILITY IN U.P.

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ABSTRACT

Objective:

a) To study Prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STI) and reproductive tract infections (RTI) in patients attending STI clinic

B) To study prevalence of HIV and associated risk factors in these patients

Study Setting: STI clinic of district hospital Unnao

Study Period: one year six month.

Study design: Cross sectional.

Results: Prevalence of STIs (Sexually Transmitted Infections) in the district hospital Unnao is slightly different in male and female. In male urethral discharge is most common followed by scrotal swelling, genital ulcers and others while in female vaginal discharge followed by lower abdominal pain, genital ulcers and others.

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INTRODUCTION

Sexually transmitted infections are group of infections which are basically communicable in nature and transmitted mainly the by sexual contacts. These are caused by group of causative organisms i.e. protozoal, bacterial, viruses, richtessial and fungi. Sexually transmitted infections are a major public health problem in developed and in developing countries but the prevalence is higher in developing countries where the health facilities are poor as compare to developed countries. During the past decade there is overwhelming evidence that both ulcerative and nonulcerative STI promote HIV transmission by augmenting HIV infection and susceptibility. An increase in trend of HIV seropositivity among the STI patients prompted us to analyse the relation. Despite greater emphasis on treatment and prevention of STI there has been a significant increase in incidence in India. Due to this alarming situation NACO has started the

STI clinics in all district hospitals of the Uttar Pradesh by providing syndromic management in which on the basis of sign and symptoms the drug kits are provided to all patients according to their diagnosis.

The study was carried out in symptomatic and asymptomatic persons attending STI clinics of the district hospitals to determine the laboratory prevalence of sexually transmitted infection (STI), reproductive tract infection (RTI) and HIV. A total of 2119 persons were subjected to general and clinical examination and screened for aetiological agents of RTI/STI by standard laboratory techniques.

Attempt has been made to find out the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections and associated risk factors of the patients attending skin and VD clinic at district hospital, Unnao.

Methodology : The present study has been carried out amongst the patients attending STI clinic of district hospital Unnao. The detailed clinical and sexual history of the patients were taken and physical examination were done by maintaining the privacy and confidentiality. Provisional diagnosis is confirmed by laboratory investigation if needed.

The present study were carried out for a period of one and half year from January 2009 to June 2010. A total of 2119 were registered during the study period in which 1139 were males and 982 were females.

Results:

Table No.1

Sex wise distribution of presenting symptoms

Symptoms	Male (%) N=1139	Female (%) N=982	Total (%) N=2119
Vaginal/ cervical discharge	-----	408 (41.54)	408(19.25)
GUD Non herpetic	56(4.91)	21(2.1)	77 (3.6)
GUD herpetic	23(2.01)	39 (3.97)	62 (2.91)
LAP	-----	145(14.76)	145(6.8)
Urethral discharge	255 (22.31)	-----	255(12.0)
Anorectal discharge	03 (0.2)	-----	03 (0.1)
Inguinal bubo	44 (3.86)	-----	44 (2.0)
Scrotal swelling	158 (13.87)	-----	158(7.4)
Genital ulcers	118 (10.35)	79 (8.04)	197(9.29)
Others	482(42.31)	290(29.57)	772(36.43)

LAP- lower abdominal pain

Table No. 2

Distribution of symptoms according to age group

Age group (Years)	Male (%) N=1139	Female (%) N=982	Total (%) N=2119
<20	210(18.4)	134(13.64)	348(16.47)
20-24	336(24.41)	227(23.11)	563(26.56)
25-44	352 (33.90)	330(33.60)	682(32.18)
>44	289(25.37)	225(22.71)	516(24.35)

Table no.1

The most common STI in males were found to be urethral discharge (22.31%) followed by scrotal swelling (13.87%), genital ulcers (10.35%) and others while in the females the most common STI were cervical/vaginal discharge(41.54%) followed by lower abdominal pain (14.76%) ,genital ulcers (8.04%) and others. The other symptoms include backache, vaginal itching, burning micturition, pain during intercourse and inguinal swelling.

Table no.2

Table shows that the STI affected the most fertile age group of life in context to both reproductive as well as economically i.e.25-44 years.

Discussion

The most common complaint in males was urethral discharge (22.31%) whereas females presented with vaginal discharge (41.54%) which similar to the reported earlier by Mishra et al, Kore et al Nandan D et al.

The majority (32.18%) of attendees were in the group of 25-44 years old similar to that reported by Bhatnager, et al and Mishra et although a good percentage (16.47%) were in younger age group less than 20 years. Other researchers such Ram et have also reported the similar finding. These finding suggest that intervention should start from younger age group.

It is still matter of concern that most of attendees first relied on self medication or went to illegitimate sources before coming to health government health facility. This reinforces the need for early referral and appropriate counseling.

Conclusion

It can be concluded from the above study that STI is public health problem in the community as the disease is more of social disease than a medical disease. Thus STI prevention efforts are critical and should be a high priority for policy makers.

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