



# ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019

Birmingham | 30th June - 2nd July

## UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES:

The potential impacts of the BASHH 2019  
gonorrhoea guidelines

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Presented on behalf of co-authors

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BACKGROUND

**EPIDEMIOLOGICAL  
TREATMENT**

for **SYMPTOMATIC**  
contacts presenting within  
**14 days** of exposure

**CONSIDERATION**

for epidemiological treatment  
for all **ASYMPTOMATIC**  
presenting in same time frame

**> 14 DAYS OF  
EXPOSURE:**

Treated upon  
**POSITIVE** test

# METHODS



## RETROSPECTIVE SERVICE EVALUATION:

- Level 3 sexual health service
- Gonorrhoea contacts
- 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018



## IDENTIFICATION OF PATIENTS:

- GUMCAD code, PNG
- n=207 patients



**2019 guidelines retrospectively applied**



## DEMOGRAPHICS

Age: **25 years old** (IQR 21-31)

Ethnicity: White British/ Irish **83%** (171/207)

Sexual orientation:

- MSM **46%** (95/207)
- Women **30%** (62/207)



## GONORRHOEA INFECTION

Prevalence: **43%** (89/207)

**34%** (30/89) Symptomatic infection

Chlamydia co-infection: **30%** (27/89)

**65%** (128/196) presented within 14 days

# GONORRHOEA INFECTION

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Highest among **FEMALE** and **MSM** contacts compared with heterosexual male ( $p < 0.001$ )

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**NO DIFFERENCE** in infection between asymptomatic and symptomatic patients presenting within 14 days ( $p = 0.49$ )

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**28%** (24/87) presenting **> 14 DAYS** were gonorrhea **POSITIVE**

# RETURN FOR TREATMENT

**31%**

(65/207)

## DELAYS IN TREATMENT:

Ongoing transmission of infection

Increased complications

Cost of return clinic visits

## EXTRA COST PER GC CONTACT:

> 2weeks = **£12.46**

<2weeks asymptomatic + >2weeks = **£34.20**

# CULTURES

## NO cultures:

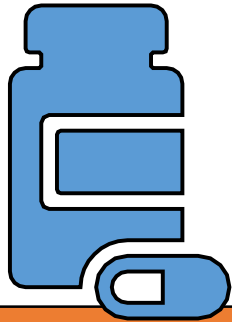
- 28% (14/50) heterosexual men
  - 23% (14/62) women
  - 18% (17/95) MSM
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## CULTURE POSITIVITY RATE:

- Urethral cultures in men: 92% (12/13)
- Cervical cultures: 75% (15/20)
- Rectal: 54% (22/41)
- Pharyngeal: 40% (17/42)

# CULTURE SENSITIVITY

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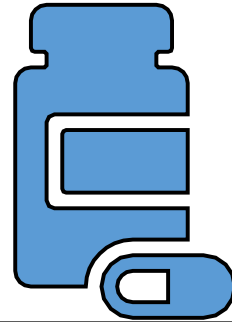


Ciprofloxacin 77%

(37/48)

48% in patients over 14  
days

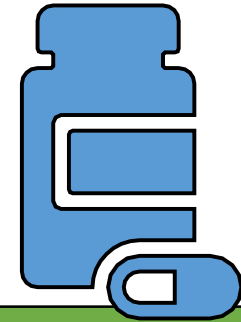
(10/21)



Azithromycin

71%

(34/48)



Ceftriaxone

100%

(48/48)



# TEST OF CURE

ATTENDANCE:

**54%**

(48/89)

MEDIAN TIME TO TOC:

**14 DAYS**

(IQR: 14-15.5)

# SUMMARY

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01

Symptoms  
inadequate  
predictor of  
gonorrhoeal  
infection

02

Low culture  
positivity rate

03

TOC unreliable

04

Chlamydial co-  
infection is high  
and often not  
recognised

**Thank you for listening**

**Any questions?**