
Editorial

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Sexually transmitted infections are on the rise worldwide. Some individuals in particular are notoriously at risk, i.e. adolescents and men who have sex with men, while others (women who have sex with women) have long been neglected in spite of the importance and higher incidence of bacterial vaginosis. Papillomavirus infections have received much attention in recent years due to the availability of newly developed vaccines, but even those are unlikely to definitively solve the problem. Syphilis has resurged even in high income countries and is often difficult to diagnose. Sexually transmitted infections in Africa are widespread and of paramount importance as a facilitating factor for HIV acquisition. Obviously, rapid diagnostic tests for sexually transmitted infections are eagerly needed and indeed are being developed.

The above topics are reviewed in this Supplement by experts in the field. I hope that this initiative will stimulate the interest of readers not only as an aid in diagnosis and patients care but also in asking new questions and thus stimulating basic, epidemiological and clinical research that will further our knowledge in this complex field.

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