**Background:**

- Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) is a re-emergent sexually transmitted infection among men who have sex with men (MSM) since initial reports in the early 2000s.
- Treatment recommendations for rectal LGV in MSM have largely been based on expert opinion as published studies on treatment outcomes for rectal LGV in MSM have been limited in number and by the number of cases in those studies.

**Aim:**

To expand the evidence base for antibiotic treatment options for rectal LGV we undertook a retrospective study in our centre that examined outcomes following treatment of MSM with rectal LGV using doxycycline or azithromycin or a combination of these agents.

**In a nutshell:**

Cure rate: 14/15 (93%, 95% Confidence interval(CI): 70-99)

- **Azithromycin 1 g stat followed by Doxycycline 100 twice daily 21 days**
  - 14/14 (100%, 95% CI: 78-100)
  - Doxycycline 100 mg twice daily 21 days and concurrent Azithromycin 1 g stat
  - 9/9 (100%, 95% CI: 70-100)
  - Doxycycline 100 mg twice daily 21 days
  - 5/7 (71%, 95% CI: 36-92)
  - Azithromycin 1 g stat
  - 2/2 (100%, 34-100)
  - Azithromycin 1 g weekly 3 weeks

**In more detail.**

| Treatment outcomes for rectal LGV using doxycycline 100mg twice daily for 21 days and/or azithromycin 1g | HIV infection | Clinical presentation | Median duration of symptoms (days) | Negative repeat anal chlamydia test (95% CI 70% to 100%)
---|---|---|---|---|
- Asymptomatic | 7 (78%) | 8 (99%) | 21 | 9/9 (99%)
- Asymptomatic proctitis | 10 (71%) | 2 (14%) | 12 | 14/14 (100%)
- | 14 (93%) | 12 (86%) | 12 | 14/15*** (93%)
- Azithromycin 1g followed by doxycycline 100mg twice daily for 21 days* | 6 (86%) | 5 (71%) | 6 | 5/7 (71%)

*The median time between initial azithromycin 1 g and commencement of doxycycline was 16 (IQR 7, 22) days.
**2 men not included in this table were treated with azithromycin 1 g oral weekly for 3 weeks and both had negative repeat testing.
***One man who had positive repeat rectal testing for LGV reported persistent rectal bleeding and condomless anal sex behaviour between treatment and repeat testing.

**Conclusion:**

- When Doxycycline 100 mg bd 21 days was used (either alone or together with Azithromycin), the microbiological cure was 37/38 (97%, 95% CI: 87-100)
- Azithromycin 1 g weekly for 3 weeks may be an alternative although limited by small numbers in our study

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

JONG@MSHC.ORG.AU