Chlamydia trachomatis infection in women in Germany, 2008-2014

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Background & Aim

• Chlamydia trachomatis (CT) infections not reportable in Germany, Limited data on prevalence among women
• Screening for CT in pregnancy in place since 1995
• Opportunistic CT screening programme for women <25 years
  — in place since 2008
  — CT tests covered by the state health insurance, however physicians not remunerated for counselling

Aim: We assessed positivity rate of CT-infection and coverage of CT screening programme for women <25 years to develop recommendations for prevention

Methods

• 2010: voluntary laboratory-based sentinel surveillance system implemented
• Data collection
  — Collection of retrospective (starting 2008) and prospective data on CT tests together with results and information on age and test reason
  — Test reason: Screening for women <25 years, screening in pregnancy, diagnostic testing (in case of symptoms), reason unknown
• Data analysis
  — Only data from women included
  — Calculation of proportion of positive tests by age and test reason over time
  — Estimation of proportion of target population <25 years reached by screening for women
  — Chi2 test and two-sample t-test

Results

Data 2008-2014 (as of 28 July 2015):

• 24 laboratories participating
• 3,863,805 tests → 93% (3,586,830) from women

Figure 1: Distribution of CT tests by region in Germany per 100,000 population, 2008-2014

Figure 2: CT tests by test reason, 2008-2014

Figure 3: Coverage of Screening for women <25 years, 2008-2014

Proportion of positive CT tests:

• Overall 3.8%
• Higher in age groups 15-19 (6.4%) and 20-24 (5.8%) compared to 25-29 (3.1%) and 30+ (1.4%), p-value<0.001
• Gradual decrease among age groups 15-19 and 20-24 years from 2008 to 2014, p-value <0.001, Figure 4:
  • 15-19 years: 7.43% → 6.56%
  • 20-24 years: 6.63% → 5.66%

Figure 4: Proportion of positive CT tests by age group, 2008-2014

Conclusions

• High proportion of young women testing positive for CT
• Gradual slight decrease in proportion of positive tests among women aged 15-24 years
• Screening for women <25 years coverage in Germany:
  — Coverage insufficient
  — Did not increase substantially in the last years

Recommendations

• Promote screening for women <25 years among:
  — Target population
  — Awareness campaigns for young women
  — Physicians
  — Remuneration for counselling

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