

Mature Men Out West – Sexual Infections in Older MSM in Outer Western Sydney

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Introduction

The Nepean sexual health clinic (NSHC) introduced two key initiatives to promote sexual health screening in men who have sex with men (MSM) and bisexual men (BSM). 1) Employed a male nurse and 2) Started the only male sexual health clinic in Nepean Blue Mountains region of western Sydney – the Men Out West clinic (MOW). Here we describe mature aged MSM and BSM who were diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis or HIV at our service following these initiatives.



Methods

A retrospective case note review of all MSM and BSM over 45 years age, attending the NSHC between 1st Jan 2012 till 30th June 2014. HIV/STI episodes, reported unprotected anal intercourse (AI) in the past three months, partner change, attendance at sex on premises venues (SOPV) and prior sexual health screening were obtained and analyzed on an access database.



Results

- 134/ 546 (25%) new male clients attended clinic were aged 45 years or older (range 45 to 78 years) , mean age 61 years.
- 102 (76%) identified as MSM, 32 (24%) were BSM
- 92% of them were Caucasian.
- A total of 23 men (17%) were diagnosed with either one of the STI's.
- Among older MSM/BSM with STI's, Six men were diagnosed with HIV (4.5 %), 12 Syphilis (9 %), 13 Chlamydia (10 %) and 12 (9 %) gonorrhoea.
- Almost all men reported recent **unprotected AI**.

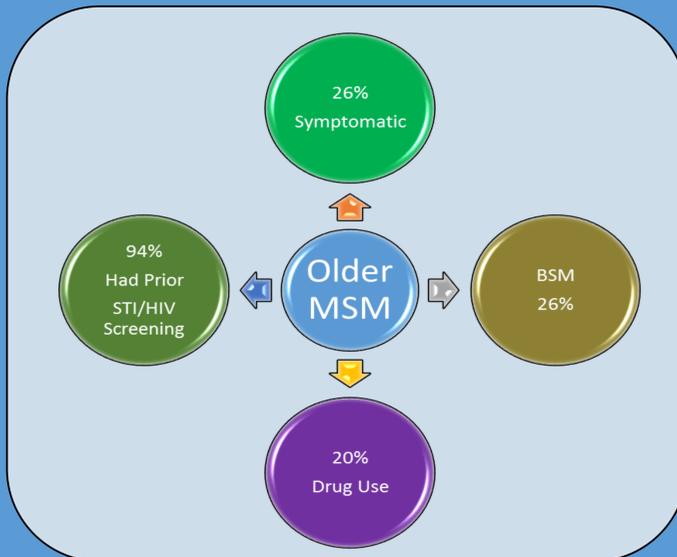


Figure 1

Profile of the older clients at their first presentation.

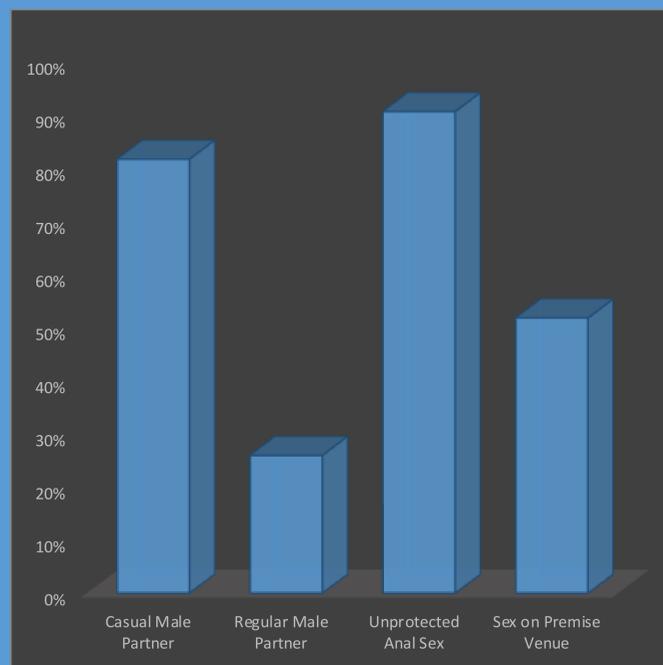


Figure 2

Prevalence of Sexual risk behavior among older MSM/BSM diagnosed with either one of the STI's.

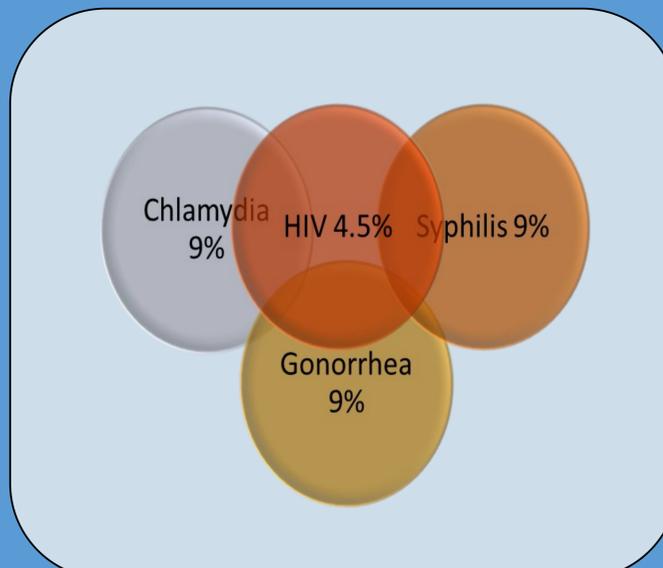


Figure 3

Prevalence of specific STI's among the older MSM/BSM

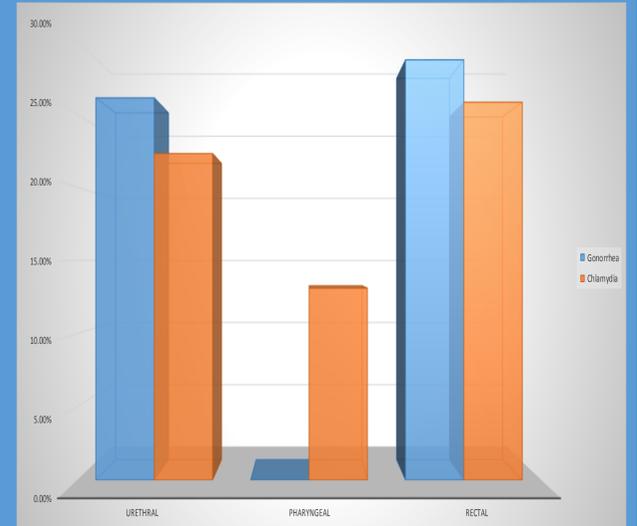


Figure 4

Distribution of STI's according to anatomical sites among older MSM/BSM diagnosed with STI's.

Literature cited

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Conclusion

- Clinicians need to have high index of suspicion for asymptomatic MSM/BSM.
- Tailored health promotion is warranted for this high risk older MSM/BMS group who are potentially acting as the bridging population for HIV/STI's in western Sydney.
- General practitioners and other primary care professionals need to recognize the needs of this group of sexually active men in a regional area of Sydney. This group may not access mainstream health promotion and STI testing services.
- There is a need for more social research on older MSM and BSM and their respective social determinants of health in the context of HIV/STI's and Sexual Health.

Acknowledgement

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