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A study of the prevalence and association of ocular chlamydial conjunctivitis in women with genital infection by *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Mycoplasma genitalium* and *Candida albicans* attending outpatient clinic in Egypt

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Purpose: To determine association between chlamydial conjunctivitis and genital *infection* by *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Mycoplasma genitalium* and *Candida albicans*, in addition to possible relationship between cultured bacterial pathogens and oculogenital chlamydial infection.

Methods: This study was performed on 100 (50 symptomatic and 50 asymptomatic) women attending Gynecological and Obstetric outpatient clinic. Simultaneously a conjunctival swab was taken from these patients. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was done on DNA extracted from both vaginal and conjunctival swab samples. Culture for both vaginal and conjunctival swabs was also done.

Results: *Candida albicans* was the predominant organism isolated by culture in 20% and 40% of conjunctival and vaginal swabs respectively. By PCR, ocular *Chlamydia trachomatis* was present in 60% of symptomatic women, while genital *Chlamydia trachomatis* infection was present in 30% of symptomatic women. Results of this method also indicated that 25/50 vaginal swabs were positive with PCR for *Candida albicans* versus 15/50 were PCR positive in conjunctival swabs. *Mycoplasma genitalium* was present in only 10% of vaginal swabs. Concomitant oculogenital PCR positive results for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Candida albicans* were 30% and 28% respectively. Ocular *Chlamydia trachomatis* patients by PCR had also genital *Chlamydia trachomatis* in 50% of women; while genital *Mycoplasma genitalium* and *Candida albicans* were also present in 16.67% and 33.3% respectively in those ocular *Chlamydia trachomatis* PCR positive patients.

Conclusion: Ocular *Chlamydia trachomatis* was associated with genital *Chlamydia trachomatis* in a high percentage of women followed by *Candida albicans*. Cultured bacterial organisms do not play role in enhancement of chlamydial infection.

Biography

Rania A Khattab has completed her PhD in 2012 from Faculty of Pharmacy, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt, Microbiology and Immunology Department. She is a lecturer at Microbiology and Immunology Department, Faculty of Pharmacy, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt. She has got Cairo University International Publication Award, Egypt in 2013. She has many teaching experiences for both undergraduate and postgraduate courses e.g. basic microbiology and immunology, pharmaceutical microbiology, quality control of herbal drugs and biotechnology. She has attended many workshops and some conferences with poster presentation in the Global Biotechnology Congress, Boston, MA, USA in June 2014. She published some papers in International Journals.

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