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Prevalence of sexually transmitted infections among the youths of Enugu metropolis, Enugu state, Nigeria

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The HVS and the ECS swabs were analyzed using direct wet smear, Gram-stained smear and culture techniques while blood samples were examined serologically using standard proprietary reagents. Out of the 200 samples examined, 195(97.5%) were infected with various aetiologic agents and 5 (2.5%) had growth of *Staphylococcus aureus*. In these patients, *Candida albicans* had the highest percentage of infections 163(81.5%). This was followed by *Gardnerella vaginalis* (Bacterial vaginosis) 23(11.5%), *Trichomonas vaginalis*, 4(2.0%), *Treponema pallidum* (Syphilis) 3(1.5%) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* 2(1.0%). Others were *Staphylococcus aureus* [5(2.5%)]. However, *Chlamydia trachomatis*, HBsAg, HCV, and HIV were not detected. The prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among attendees of the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (UNTH) was studied. Blood, high vaginal swabs (HVS) and Endocervical swab (ECS) samples were aseptically collected from two hundred (200) subjects attending the teaching hospital, and investigated for various etiologic agents of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) including *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Candida albicans*, *Trichomonas vaginalis*, *Gardnerella vaginalis* (Bacterial vaginosis), *Treponema pallidum* (Syphilis), Hepatitis B surface Antigen (HBsAg), Human immunodeficiency virus and *Chlamydiae* species, using standard microbiological methods. The prevalence rates of infections were inversely associated with an increase in age, sex, and marital status. Increased routine screening for STIs is essential in preventing disease transmission and adverse outcomes among these groups. In this seminar, I will discuss the prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases, the causative organisms, mode of transmission and its preventive measures.

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