

RISK FACTORS FOR OROPHARYNGEAL GONORRHOEA IN MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN: AN AGE-MATCHED CASE-CONTROL STUDY.

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Background. Oropharyngeal gonorrhoea is common among men who have sex with men (MSM). We aimed to clarify which oral sex practices were independent risk factors for oro-pharyngeal gonorrhoea: tongue kissing, receptive oro-penile sex or insertive oro-anal sex, and whether daily use of mouthwash was protective.

Methods. In 2015, we conducted an age-matched case-control study of MSM who attended the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre. Cases had tested positive for oropharyngeal gonorrhoea by nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT), controls had tested negative. Questionnaire items included tongue kissing, oral sex practices, condom use, recent antibiotic use, mouthwash use and alcohol consumption.

Results. We identified 177 cases, age-matched to 354 controls. In univariate analyses, cases were 1.90 times (95% CI 1.13 to 3.20) more likely than controls to have casual sexual partners (CSP) in the preceding 3 months, were 2.17 times (95% CI 1.31 to 3.59) more likely to have kissed CSP, and were 2.04 times (95% CI 1.26 to 3.30) more likely to have had receptive oro-penile sex with CSP. Oro-pharyngeal gonorrhoea was not associated with insertive oro-anal sex or mouthwash use. The number of CSP for tongue kissing and receptive oral sex, and total CSP were highly correlated, interfering with interpretation of multivariate analysis.

Conclusion. Compared to controls, men with oropharyngeal gonorrhoea were twice as likely to have kissed and to have engaged in other oral sex practices. Due to the concurrent nature of oral sex practices we were not able to determine the independent contributions of these activities.

Disclosure of interest

None to declare