

MOLECULAR TESTING FOR GONORRHOEA RESISTANCE AND ITS ROLE IN GONORRHOEA CONTROL

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The gonococcus is now presenting some serious public health and clinical challenges. Rates of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infection have continued to increase and have almost doubled in Australia in the last five years. Antibiotic resistant *N. gonorrhoeae* strains continue to emerge and spread and now threaten key gonorrhoea treatments, including ceftriaxone and azithromycin. Overall the current evidence suggests we are fast losing control of this emerging superbug, and highlights the need for renewed efforts to ensure individuals at risk of *N. gonorrhoeae* infection are tested, accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated. This talk will focus on key issues associated with *N. gonorrhoeae* antimicrobial resistance as well as how new molecular tools are being used to enhance *N. gonorrhoeae* detection and characterisation. Furthermore, individualised therapy regarding ciprofloxacin will also be discussed to spare the use of ceftriaxone.