

## **PATIENT DELIVERED PARTNER THERAPY FOR CHLAMYDIA: PATIENT AND PARTNER ACCEPTABILITY**

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**Background:** Sexually acquired *Chlamydia trachomatis* is a significant public health concern due to increasing incidence and adverse outcomes. Australian guidelines recommend patient delivered partner therapy (PDPT) for treatment of contacts, however it is not widely prescribed due to varying state and territory legislation. This project, undertaken in the Australian Capital Territory where legislation does not preclude PDPT prescription, explored the acceptability of PDPT for empiric treatment of chlamydia contacts.

**Methods:** From November 2015 – February 2017 patients treated for chlamydia or pelvic inflammatory disease stating that their partners would have difficulty accessing treatment were offered PDPT. Phone consultation, patient registration and medical record documentation for partners was undertaken at the time of index patient visit and PDPT, written information, pathology form and specimen container were provided. Phone follow up was made within 4 weeks to index patients and partners to evaluate the experience of providing or receiving PDPT via post intervention questionnaire.

**Results:** Of 40 index patients, 38 were able to be contacted to complete the evaluation. 100% reported that their partner took the medication; 92% on the same day as index patient treatment and 8% within 1-3 days. All stated they were comfortable providing the medication and would use PDPT again.

40 partners were eligible to receive PDPT and 73 % (29) were able to be contacted to complete the post intervention questionnaire. 100% of partners said they took the medication with no adverse events and all stated they would use PDPT again. Six (15%) chlamydia test kits were returned and 4 tested positive for chlamydia.

**Conclusion:** PDPT is a safe, simple and useful chlamydia treatment option that enables prompt partner treatment. PDPT is acceptable to both index and partners and should be provided as an option if local legislation allows. Partners are unlikely to seek testing when provided with PDPT.

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