

OTHER EXPLANATIONS AND CONTROL OF GONORRHEA IN HETEROSEXUAL POPULATIONS.

Authors:

Fairley CK

¹ Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, Alfred Health. ² Central Clinical School, Monash University ³

Background:

This presentation will be the last in a series dealing with an apparent increase in heterosexual gonorrhoea in Australian cities among heterosexuals. I will discuss potential underlying causes for the rises in heterosexual gonorrhoea in populations including the critical issue of whether the reproductive rate for heterosexual gonorrhoea in capital cities has changed.

There are a number of possible causes for the rises observed. These could include; a large increase in 'introduced' infections from large increases in overseas travel, bridging from the current epidemic in men who have sex with men or most worryingly a fundamental change in the reproductive rate of infection in heterosexuals that has been less than one for many years.

The 'control' strategies for will be different and highlight why it is so important to determine the underlying cause for the rise. Control strategies include increased health literacy for symptoms that may indicate gonorrhoea infection, screening among high risk groups (e.g. travelers to recent countries of high prevalence), improved partner notification, increased condom use or potentially addressing newly defined risk factors.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

I have no conflict of interest to declare.