

#### Health

Gonorrhoea
and syphilis sex
infections reach
record levels in
England



#### Sexual health

Support us

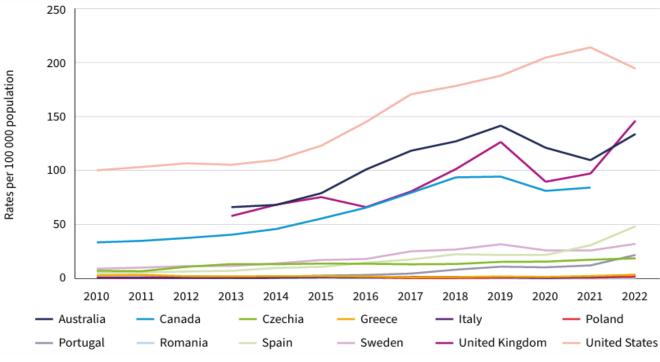
News Opinion

UK World Clima

• This article is more than 1 month old

Hospital admissions for easily treatable STIs rise amid funding cuts in England

## The Problem



Warning over surge in STIs across Europe as experts say rates of gonorrhoea, syphilis and chlamydia have soared by almost 50% in wake of pandemic

By Emily Stearn, Health Reporter For Mailonline UPDATED: 18:01 on 7 March 2024

 The ECDC team said urgent action was needed to guash high case numbers

Comments In

"SAY TO THE ISRAELITES,
"WHEN ANY MAN HAS A
BODILY DISCHARGE, THE
DISCHARGE IS UNCLEAN.
- LEVITICUS 15:2

World Health Organization - Global Report May 2024

## STI Key Facts





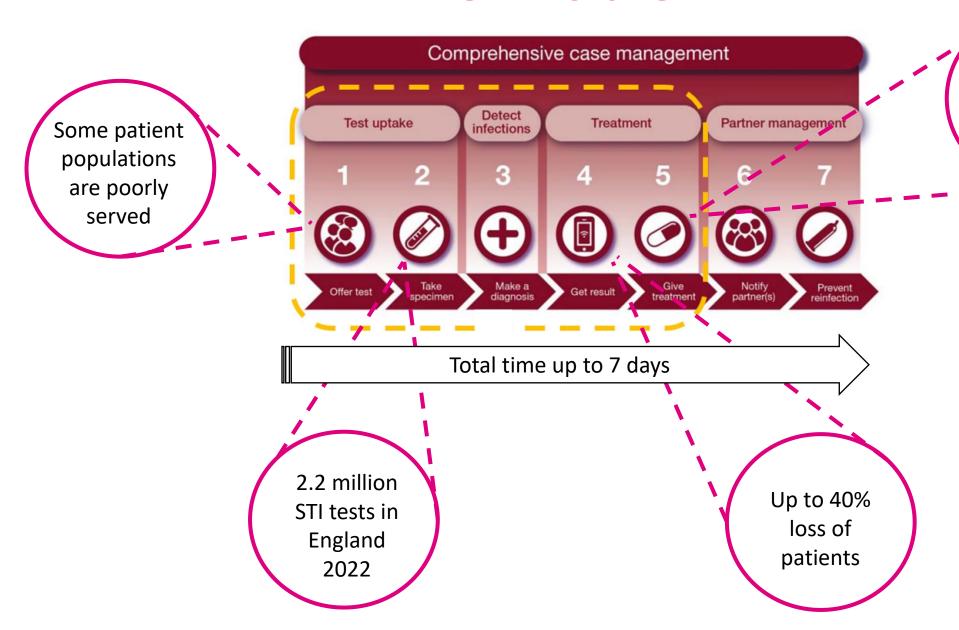




The Next Generation in Near Patient Diagnostics

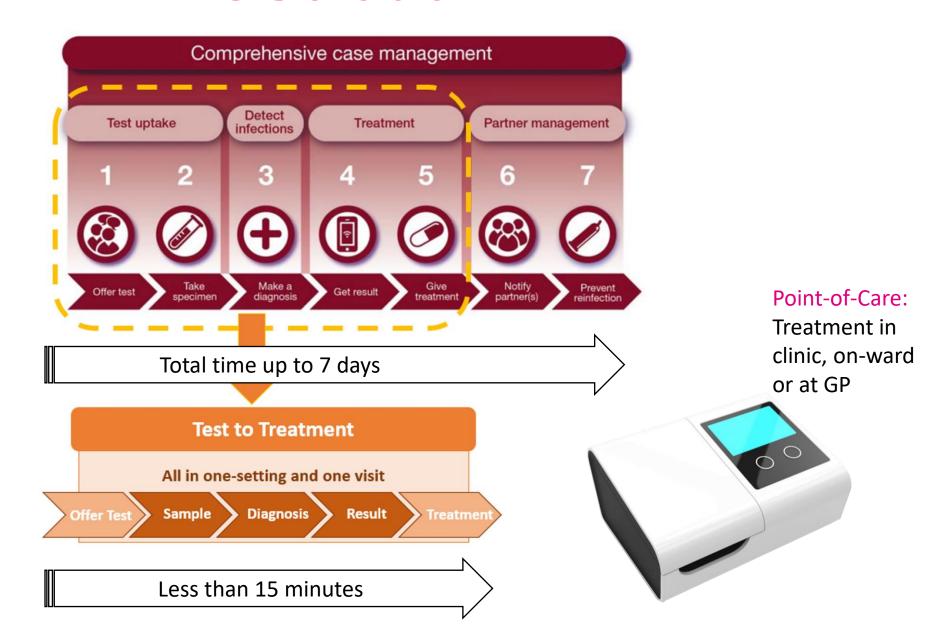


## The Problem

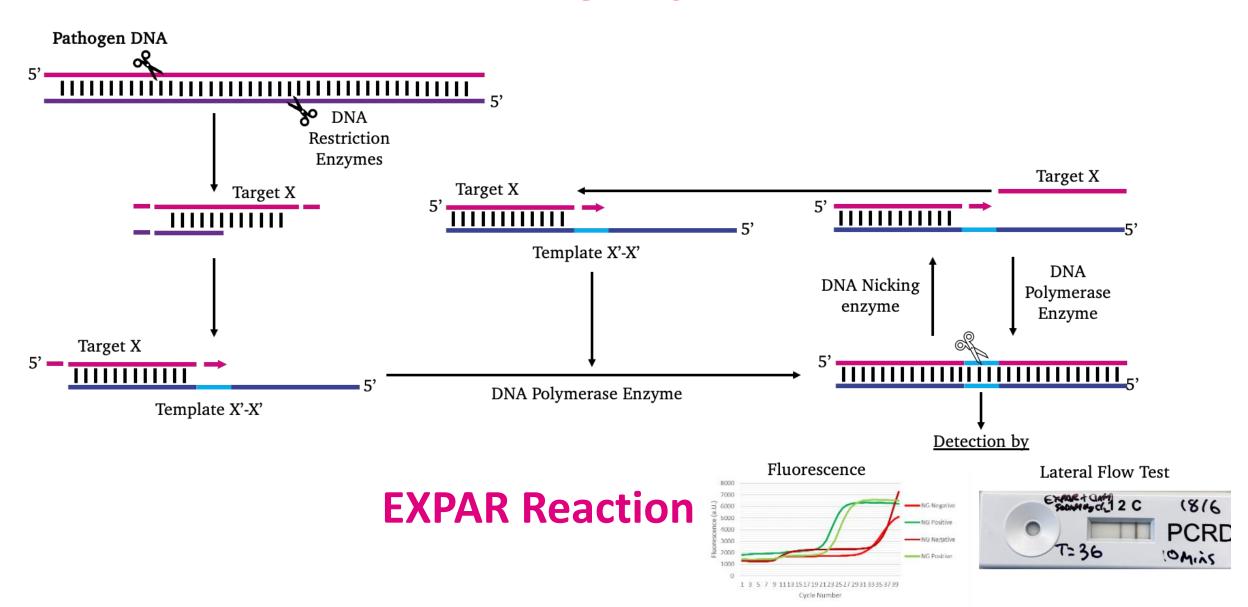


Growing antimicrobial resistance to gonorrhea

## The Solution



## The How



# Current Diagnostics Development Pipeline

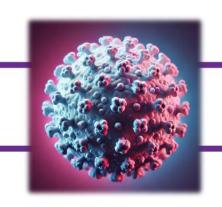


Disease Occurrence Molecular Target Identification Assay
Development
and
Optimisation

Product Development Trials

Complex, slow and not predictable

# A New Diagnostics Development Pipeline



Disease Occurrence



Integrated Al and ML Development Module



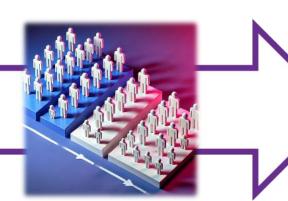


Molecular Target Identification

Assay Development and Optimisation



**Product** Development



**Trials** 

# Challenges and Solutions

# 



Innovate UK – GBIP

Support to interact with stakeholders e.g. hospitals

West Midlands Health Tech Innovation Accelerator

Networking and triage support

NIHR National Institute for Health and Care Research

- Adoption and Implementation support program
  - -To understand how to sell to NHS







## Challenge 2: Accessing Support & Funding



West Midlands Health Tech Innovation Accelerator

Grant for technical development

CPI MedTech Accelerator Rapid Regulatory Support MARRS

Grant for regulatory support

NIHR National Institute for Health and Care Research

i4i iFAST and PDA grants

Innovate UK

UKI2S Accelerator Programme





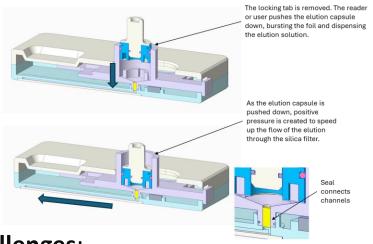




















#### Challenges:

Cartridge needs to extract and purify DNA

Low cost and low failure rate

Will need to meet NHS Net Zero sustainability requirements

#### Solutions:

CAD and 3D printing for low-cost prototyping

#### **Opportunities:**

Create partnerships with existing technologies





### Challenge 3: Sourcing Clinical Samples



#### Challenges:

Obtaining large quantities of well characterised samples

Sample quality (freshness)

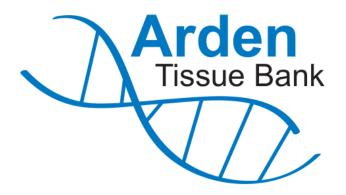
Ethical approval

#### Solutions:

Find good collaborators/institutions

#### **Opportunities:**

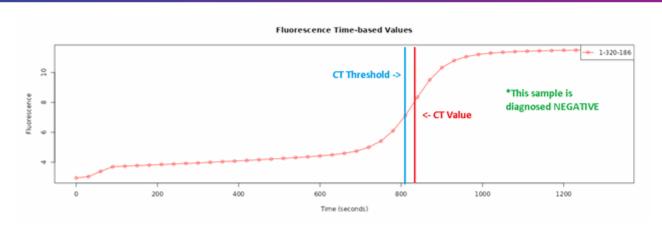
Use technology for rapid sample screening





### Challenge 3: Data





# $Accuracy = \frac{}{(True\ Positives + True\ Negatives + False\ Positives + False\ Negatives)}$ $Sensitivity = \frac{}{(True\ Positives + False\ Negatives)}$ $Specificity = \frac{}{(True\ Negatives + False\ Positives)}$

#### Challenges:

Short amplification and detection times mean data is difficult to separate

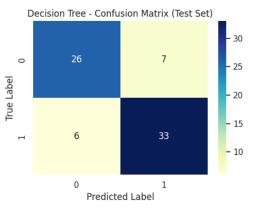
Need large amounts of data to optimise

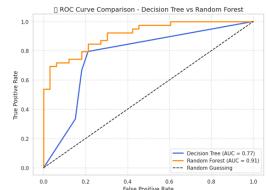
#### Solutions:

Apply machine learning approaches to improve Accuracy

#### **Opportunities:**

Large scale preventative screening





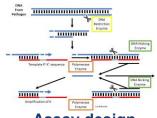




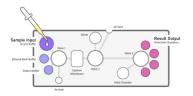
# Project Plan

3 Year Time Plan Year 1 Year 2 Year 3

#### Patient and Public Involvement (Insight Panel & patient groups)



Assay design



**Cartridge design** 



Care pathway analysis





Reader and Cartridge integration and testing



Clinical trial design



Health economic modelling





Validation testing



Diagnostic accuracy evaluations

## Let's Talk



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#### Next epidemic to spill out of China could be SUPER GONORRHEA - where rate of antibiotic-resistant STIs are 40x higher than US and UK

By Cassidy Morrison Senior Health Reporter For Dailymail.Com

UPDATED: 18:09 on 28 March 2024

