

Assessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on chlamydia care cascade in Victorian general practice.

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Background:

Chlamydia infections can result in serious long term health consequences, including pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility. General practitioners play a vital role in chlamydia management including testing, appropriate treatment and re-testing. The shift to telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have had an impact on chlamydia diagnosis and management. We will compare chlamydia testing, diagnosis, treatment, re-testing and re-infection rates in both urban and regional areas of general practice in Victoria for the period from 2018-2020 capturing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on diagnosis and management.

Methods:

This research will use de-identified patient data from the Patron primary care data repository that is curated and operated by the Department of General Practice, The University of Melbourne. Annual chlamydia testing rates will be calculated. Chlamydia positivity and re-testing rates for those who test positive will be calculated. Chlamydia re-infection rate will be calculated for those who re-tested. The proportion of those diagnosed with chlamydia who are treated appropriately and the time from diagnosis to commencement of treatment will be calculated. Descriptive statistics will be used to describe the data by age, gender and location of general practices. Logistic regression using generalised estimating equations with robust standard error will be used to examine factors associated with chlamydia testing, diagnosis, appropriate treatment, re-testing, re-infection rates and COVID-19 impact on these.

Results:

The Patron dataset collects patient consultation data from 103 general practices across Victoria. 57 of general practices are in urban area. The data represent over 2.7 million annual consultations and cover patients of all ages. Analyses of the chlamydia testing and management data are ongoing and will be presented at the conference.

Conclusion:

This study will provide an insight on chlamydia infection management including appropriate treatment in general practices in Victoria and the impact of COVID-19 on it.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

None

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