

The Power of Knowing: Pursuing Improved Pathways to Better Patient Solutions

Diagnostics for chlamydial and gonococcal infections in China: Current status and future perspectives

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Outline

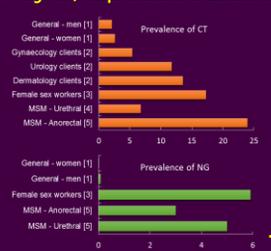
Focus on three questions:

1. Why are the diagnostics for CT & NG infections important?
2. What diagnostics for CT & NG are currently available and used in clinical services?
3. What are the future perspectives for CT & NG diagnostics?




Why diagnostics?

- High CT/NG prevalence & disease burdens



Prevalence of CT: General - men [1], General - women [1], Gynaecology clients [2], Urology clients [2], Dermatology clients [2], Female sex workers [3], MSM - Urethral [4], MSM - Anorectal [5]

Prevalence of NG: General - women [1], General - men [1], Female sex workers [3], MSM - Anorectal [4], MSM - Urethral [5]

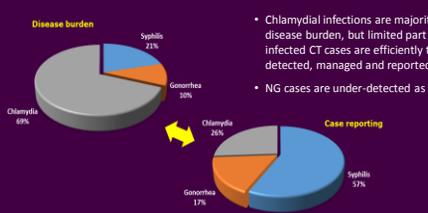
→ >10 million people infected with CT
 >1.5 million people infected with NG

[1] Parish WL, et al. JAMA. 2003; 289:1265. [2] Liu Q, et al. Chin J AIDS STDs. 2013; 19:760. [3] Chen X, et al. BMC Public Health. 2013; 13:121. [4] Wang X, et al. China Mags Project. 2005. [5] Li J, et al. J Infect Dis. 2011; 204:143.



Why diagnostics?

- Low proportion of these infections detected



Disease burden: Chlamydia 6%, Syphilis 22%, Gonorrhoea 10%

Case reporting: Chlamydia 26%, Syphilis 57%, Gonorrhoea 17%

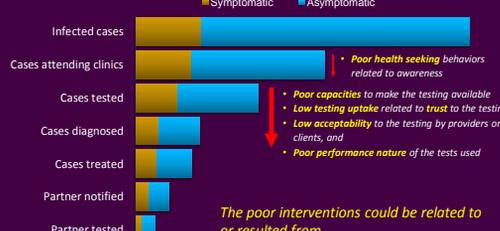
- Chlamydial infections are majority of STI disease burden, but limited part of the infected CT cases are efficiently tested, detected, managed and reported.
- NG cases are under-detected as well.

Data source: STD sentinel surveillance programme, NCSTD



Why diagnostics?

- High disease burdens but low detection for interventions



Legend: Symptomatic (yellow), Asymptomatic (blue)

- Poor health seeking behaviors related to awareness
- Poor capacities to make the testing available
- Low testing uptake related to trust to the testing
- Low acceptability to the testing by providers or clients, and
- Poor performance nature of the tests used

The poor interventions could be related to or resulted from

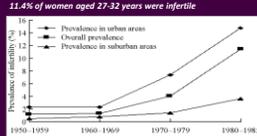


What implication?

Poor detection of these infections for interventions has potentially contributed to increasing & high prevalence of infertility.

Original article: Increasing trend of prevalence of infertility in Beijing
 Zhang Honglin, Wang Shou, Zhang Songren, Wang Xiantai, Ding Jianhong
 Keywords: infertility, prevalence, epidemiology

11.4% of women aged 27-32 years were infertile



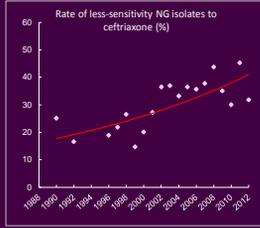
Prevalence of infertility (%)

Year of birth




What implication?

Poor detection of these infections for interventions *has potentially contributed to increasing & high rate of drug resistance, and further transmission.*

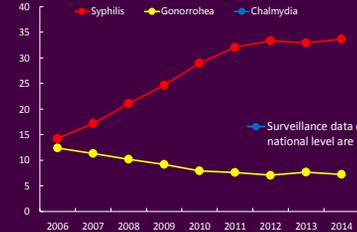


Data source: NCSTD, China CDC



What implication?

Poor detection and case-reporting of these infections *has made the interpretation of the national surveillance data more challenging.*



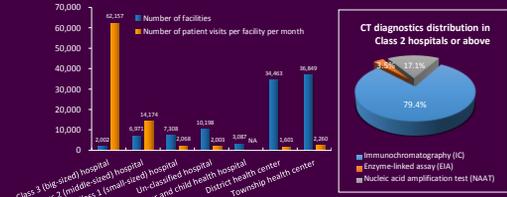
What diagnostics available?

- China is a country with a lot of local companies pursuing the development and production of diagnostics for CT and/or NG.
- An increasing number of diagnostics for CT or NG produced locally or imported from outside have been commercially available:
 - >10 diagnostics based on detection of CT antigen
 - >5 diagnostics based on detection of NG antigen
 - >10 diagnostics based on detection of DNA of CT or/and NG
- Performance reported by the company is usually good but methods used to validate the performance vary widely.



What diagnostics used?

- Class 3 or Class 2 hospitals account for <10% of all medical facilities but serve >50% of patients¹.
- CT/NG testing is usually not available in Class 1 (small-sized) hospitals or below (health centers).
- Less doctors and physicians are willing to request/conduct culture examination for NG.
- A survey in 257 Class 2 hospitals or above indicates antigen-based tests for CT is most widely used².



2. NCSTD. A survey among 257 hospitals in sentinel surveillance sites in China, 2014.



Poor performance of ag-based assay

- More than 50% CT infections could not be identified by the current antigen-based assays.

RAPID DIAGNOSTICS
Clinic-based evaluation of Clearview Chlamydia MF for detection of Chlamydia trachomatis in vaginal and cervical specimens from women at high risk in China

Y P Yin, X W Peeling, R S Chan, K L Gong, H Zhao, W H Gu, H P Zhang, Z S Wang, G Tang, W L Cao, H Q Shi, W H Yang, X Q Dai, S Gao, Q Chen, D Healy



Source and type of specimens	Sensitivity (%) (95% CI)	Specificity (%) (95% CI)
FRC (n=587)		
Vaginal swab	24.2* (14.9 to 36.6)	99.4 (98.2 to 99.9)
Cervical swab	44.4 (32.1 to 57.4)	99.4 (98.2 to 99.9)
STD (n=839)		
Vaginal swab	36.8* (28.2 to 46.2)	98.9 (97.7 to 99.5)
Cervical swab	52.6 (43.1 to 61.9)	96.7 (95.0 to 97.8)
SDV (n=71)		
Vaginal swab	38.9 (18.3 to 63.9)	100.0 (91.6 to 100)
Cervical swab	50.0 (26.8 to 73.2)	100.0 (91.6 to 100)
Total (n=1,497)		
Vaginal swab	32.8** (26.5 to 39.9)	99.2 (98.4 to 99.6)
Cervical swab	49.7 (42.6 to 56.9)	97.9 (96.9 to 98.6)



From Ag-based to NAAT-based assay

- Quality NAAT-based diagnostics have been recommended as assays for improving identification of patients with these infections in clinical practice.

1990: PCR assays were widely applied for disease diagnoses in qualified / unqualified clinics in 1990s. More than 100 PCR kits were available but none of them was approved by the govt authority.

1998: MOH issued "The Administrative Notice to Suspend Clinical Use of Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests" in April 1998.

2002: National Center for Clinical Laboratories (NCLL) developed "The Working Standards of Laboratories for Use of Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests" in February 2002.

2005: Increasing number of PCR kits for CT or CT/NG have been approved & commercially available in the recent 10 years.

2010: MOH issued "The Provisions on the Management of Laboratories for Use of Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests" in December 2010.

Management

- Labi assessment against the requirements
- Qualification of lab for PCR tests
- Proficiency supervision
- Sanction mechanisms



Future perspectives?

CLINICAL SERVICE

DIS SURVEILLANCE

SCI RESEARCH

NCSTD

What diagnostics expected?

A = Affordable
S = Sensitive
Sp = Specific
U = User-friendly
R = Rapid and robust
E = Equipment-free
D = Deliverable

A = Affordable
S = Sensitive and specific
P = Procedure-simple
I = Invasion-free
R = Rapid and robust
E = Environment-adapted
D = Deliverable

CLINICAL SERVICE

DIS SURVEILLANCE

SCI RESEARCH

1. Peeling RW, et al. Sex Transm Infect 2006; 82(Suppl V):vi-vi.
2. Chen XS. Presentation at National STD Workshop, 2015.

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Affordable diagnostics

A = Affordable
S = Sensitive and specific
P = Procedure-simple
U = Invasion-free
R = Rapid and robust
E = Environment-adapted
D = Deliverable

- Affordable by patient seeking health-care services: During Jan and May 2015, the outpatient expenses per clinic visit were US\$ 45 in public Class 3 (big-sized) hospitals and US\$ 29 in public Class 2 (middle-sized) hospitals in China¹.
- Affordable by the public health programme: affordable and cost-effective investment of interventions (e.g. active screening among young people and/or outreach screening at HR groups).

1. Statistics of outpatient expenses in state hospitals in China by May 2015, NHFPC.

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Accurate diagnostics

A = Affordable
S = Sensitive and specific
P = Procedure-simple
U = Invasion-free
R = Rapid and robust
E = Environment-adapted
D = Deliverable

Desired accuracy?
Development of the target product profile (TPP) for each of the assays laying out the desired performance is under plan.

Performance vs Access vs Cost

Urban
Accurate ✓✓
Cheap X
Fast/simple X

Rural
Accurate ✓✓
Cheap ✓
Fast/simple ✓

Rural
Accurate ✓
Cheap ✓
Fast/simple ✓✓

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Simple & easy-to-use diagnostics

A = Affordable
S = Sensitive and specific
P = Procedure-simple
U = Invasion-free
R = Rapid and robust
E = Environment-adapted
D = Deliverable

AUTOMATION

Automation system including self-contained quality control can save human resource, reduce mistakes, favor standardization, and improve service quality.

Point of Care

POC Tests for CT & NG: Available and Pipeline¹

1. Murtagh MM. Presentation of POC tests, 2015.

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Diagnostics using non-invasive sample

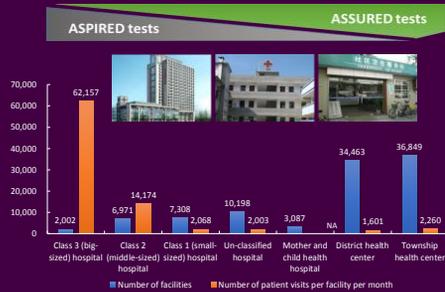
A = Affordable
S = Sensitive and specific
P = Procedure-simple
U = Invasion-free
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D = Deliverable

Desired accuracy?
Non-invasive sampling manner can improve patient acceptability and simplify sample collecting procedure, representing real advantages in clinical care, outreach services and epidemiological surveys.

BUT, performance of the diagnostic should NOT be compromised by sampling manner.

NCSTD

Introduction of diagnostics



NCSTD

Pursuing improved care of STIs

- **Ensure quality of diagnostics:**
 - TPP for R&D of innovative diagnostics
 - Protocols for independent validation of new diagnostics and evidence-based regulatory process of the diagnostics
 - Regular post-market evaluation of commercially available diagnostics and data dissemination and sharing through publication or website
 -
- **Ensure quality to use the diagnostics:**
 - Guidelines and SOPs for use of diagnostics in clinical services, and surveillance programme.
 - Quality assurance through proficiency panels, site observation, and competency assessment
 - Training programmes including pre-service and in-service training
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Conclusions

- China has high disease burdens of chlamydial and gonococcal infections but has these infections poorly detected for treatment and interventions.
- China expects the diagnostics having ASSURED or ASPIRED characteristics for improving the medical care in health facilities at different levels, strengthening the surveillance programme, and assisting the scientific research.
- China needs to create quality assurance system to ensure the quality of diagnostics and ensure the quality to apply the quality diagnostics.

NCSTD

Acknowledgements

National Reference Sexually Transmitted Disease Laboratory



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