Author’s response to reviews

Title: What is needed to guide testing for anorectal and pharyngeal Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae in women and men? Evidence and Opinion

Authors:

Nicole Dukers-Muijrers (nicole.dukers@ggdzn.nl)
Julius Schachter (julius.schachter@ucsf.edu)
Petra Wolffs (p.wolffs@mumc.nl)
Genevieve van Liere (genevieve.vanliere@ggdzn.nl)
Christian Hoebe (christian.hoebe@ggdzn.nl)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Whiley

Thank you for your acceptance of our paper providing several minor changes, addressed below.

1. In the title could you please replace the word “Discussion” with words to the effect of “An opinion piece” or “Evidence and Opinion”. This I believe would comprehensively resolve the concerns originally raised by myself and reviewer 3.

   This is indeed a very good solution. We changed accordingly into ‘Evidence and Opinion’.

2. As per above, in the abstract could you replace the words “compiling the evidence” with “in our opinion”.

   Is changed accordingly.

3. Page 7 (page numbers based on when viewed in ‘all markup’): please replace “hardly ever” with “infrequently”

   Is changed accordingly.

4. Page 16: Please replace “Lacking better data…” with “In the absence of better data…”.

   Is changed accordingly.
5. Page 20: Please replace “Lacking better data to guide testing, in MSM routine extra-genital CT and NG testing is an imperative” with “Better data to guide testing in MSM routine extra-genital CT and NG testing is an imperative”

Changing as suggested would change the meaning of the sentence. We have rephrased the section retaining the original meaning and meanwhile shortened it a bit, see below.

The original text was:

‘Testing should not solely be guided by symptoms or behavioral exposure as the large majority of extra-genital STI are asymptomatic and over half of the extra-genital infections occur in the absence of (the patient reporting) such exposures. Lacking better data to guide testing, in MSM routine extra-genital CT and NG testing is an imperative. This because the majority of extra-genital infections in MSM are single site infections that are not being ‘inadvertently managed’ by treating urethral infections. Routine universal testing instead of testing based on behavioral indication is needed as extra-genital infections commonly occur in the absence of reported behavioral exposure.’

We changed into:

“Testing should not solely be guided by indication of symptoms or behavioral exposure as the large majority of extra-genital STI are asymptomatic and over half of the extra-genital infections occur in the absence of (report of) such symptoms or behavioural exposures in both women and MSM. The majority of extra-genital infections in MSM are single site infections that are not being ‘inadvertently managed’ by treating urethral infections. Based on the current available data routine universal testing of all MSM instead of only testing MSM who report symptoms or behavioural exposure is therefore an imperative.”

5. Page 20 (directly after the above sentence): please insert “is” after “This”.

Is resolved, see above.

Kind regards,

Nicole Dukers-Muijrers

On behalf of all co-authors