

Sexual Health

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Abortion and the full humanity of women: nearly there J. Wainer 219–221	Candy Broad, ALP member of the Upper House, introduced a bill to the Victorian Parliament to decriminalise abortion in July 2007. She withdrew the Crimes Act (Decriminalisation of Abortion) Bill when the Premier referred the issue to the Victorian Law Reform Commission with a request that they respond by March 2008. It is anticipated that MPs will finally have a chance to remove the criminality of abortion from the burden carried by women and their doctors.
Introducing early medical abortion in Australia: there is a need to update abortion laws C. M. de Costa, D. B. Russell, N. R. de Costa, M. Carrette and H. M. McNamee 223–226	Medical abortion, currently practiced to some extent in Australia, is likely to become more widely available with the introduction of mifepristone (RU486). Australian abortion law differs from state to state; in almost all areas it is still contained within criminal codes, and does not reflect modern abortion practice. Current legislation is reviewed, with particular reference to medical abortion, and a recommendation made for urgent reform of abortion laws throughout the country.
Depression, social support and adherence to highly active antiretroviral therapy in people living with HIV/AIDS T. Gibbie, M. Hay, C. W. Hutchison and A. Mijch 227–232	This study investigated the prevalence of depression in HIV-positive individuals and its association with adherence to highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART). This study found compromised psychological health in people living with HIV infection. Non-adherence to HAART was reported by 30.5% of those prescribed HAART and was significantly associated with living alone and relationship status. It is recommended that health professionals continue to screen for depression, relationship status and living situation to ensure adherence to HAART.
Using epidemiological and molecular methods to investigate an outbreak of gonorrhoea associated with heterosexual contact in Newcastle, NSW, Australia K. Todd, D. Durrheim, R. Pickles, K. Eastwood, T. Merritt, J. Tapsall, S. Ray and A. Limnios 233–236	Investigation of an outbreak of gonorrhoea in mainly heterosexual males with exposure to street sex industry workers, in which transmission of the outbreak gonococcal strain was interrupted by public health surveillance and health promotion intervention.
Aboriginal women's stories of sexually transmissible infection transmission and condom use in remote central Australia A. M. Stark and A. Hope 237–242	There is little research on the underlying factors affecting the high rates of sexually transmissible infections (STI) transmission in Central Australia. This study explores Aboriginal women's knowledge of STI, perception of risk to STI, condom use, access to condoms, condom negotiation and the sociocultural context of their sexual health. The perceived effects of alcohol abuse, infidelity, sexual assault and shame on the acquisition of STI were significant issues for the women. These findings have never been published before and call for further qualitative research in the area.
Adolescent girls' communication with partners about microbicide use M. B. Short, S. Ramos, J. K. Oates and S. L. Rosenthal 243–248	Girls participated in a 6-month study and were asked about their communications with partners regarding topical microbicides. Most girls talked with their partners and had positive conversations.
General practice intervention to increase opportunistic screening for chlamydia T. D. Merritt, D. N. Durrheim, K. Hope and P. Byron 249–251	Strategies to improve opportunistic chlamydia screening were trialed at six general practices over an 18-month period. These included promoting a simplified screening protocol, providing feedback on chlamydia testing and developing additional resources for patients and GPs. The overall impact on testing was modest and was insufficient to impact on the current chlamydia epidemic. Major additional measures such as financial incentives and increased community awareness would be required to further substantially increase testing levels.
Guideline evaluation: tricky business J. D. Klausner 253–254	Clinical management guidelines are important tools to assure the adequate diagnosis, treatment and prevention of various sexually transmissible diseases. While the evaluation of such guidelines is a potentially worthy endeavour, currently used guideline evaluation instruments fail to measure the evidence base used or interpreted in those guidelines and rely on criteria that may not be relevant to clinical or public health outcomes.

Evaluation, using two assessment instruments, of the American and British national guidelines for the management of sexually transmissible and genital infections A. Baird, O. Olarinde and M. Talbot 255–260	Using two validated guideline assessment instruments, the authors have undertaken an analysis of national American and British guidelines on the management of sexually transmissible and genital infections. Noteworthy differences were found between the two, the significance of which are discussed.
Male sex work and HIV risk among young heroin users in Hanoi, Vietnam M. C. Clatts, L. M. Giang, L. A. Goldsamt and H. Yi 261–267	This paper describes an ethno-epidemiological study of drug and sexual risk practices in a sample of young male sex workers in Hanoi, Vietnam, with an interest in understanding the way in which rapidly expanding markets for male sex work, particularly global sex tourism, may accelerate the HIV epidemic in South-east Asia.
Sexual dysfunction in men treated with depot antipsychotic drugs: a pilot study D. Plevin, C. Galletly and P. Roughan 269–271	This study investigates the relationship between sexual function and serum levels of prolactin and testosterone in men with chronic psychotic illnesses treated with regular long-acting depot injections of antipsychotic medication. Sexual difficulties were very common, but there was no association between elevated prolactin or reduced testosterone and sexual dysfunction.
Young women's misperceptions about sexually transmissible infection testing: a 'clean and clear' misunderstanding S. K. Head, R. A. Crosby, L. A. Shrier and G. R. Moore 273–275	An exploratory study among young women receiving gynaecologic care in a university setting in the USA found that many (25.7%) incorrectly believed they had been tested for sexually transmissible infections (STI). Women with this inaccurate understanding may operate under the misperception they are 'clean and clear' of STI. Women with said misperception were more likely to be minority race and report relatively earlier age of sexual debut and previous STI diagnosis.
National guidelines for post-exposure prophylaxis after non-occupational exposure to HIV NPEP Reference Group 277–283	The 2007 National NPEP Guidelines are the result of a review and revision of the 2001 guidelines for the management and prophylaxis of non-occupational exposure to HIV. Since then, there has been little new work on HIV transmission and management that directly relates to non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (NPEP). The main changes are to the areas of transmission risk, seroprevalence and recommended drug regimens. The NPEP reference group has endeavoured to quantify transmission risk/exposure and the consequent recommendations in a way that is more clinically useful.
Abstracts from the Australasian Sexual Health Conference 2007 Monday 8 October–Wednesday 10 October 2007 285–312	Abstracts from the Australian Sexual Health Conference 2007 held at the Gold Coast are presented.