

Sexual Health

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Condoms for sexually transmissible infection prevention: politics versus science <i>A. Mindel and S. Sawleshwarkar</i>	1–8	This review investigates the protection that condoms offer against most sexually transmissible infections (STI). The Bush administration in the past 8 years has led a campaign to undermine the role of the condom in the prevention of STIs, by undervaluing and misrepresenting scientific data, and has relied on abstinence-only education programs. These programs have been widely criticised and evidence suggests that abstinence-only education fails.
Sexually transmissible infections among female sex workers: an international review with an emphasis on hard-to-access populations <i>J. G. Cwikel, T. Lazer, F. Press and S. Lazer</i>	9–16	This article reviews the trends in sexually transmissible infections (STI) reported in 42 studies from around the world among women working in prostitution (female sex workers [FSW]). A particular emphasis was placed on hard-to-access populations among FSW, such as those who have been trafficked or who are working illegally.
Exploring 'best practice' for nucleic acid detection of <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> <i>D. M. Whiley, S. M. Garland, G. Harnett, G. Lum, D. W. Smith, S. N. Tabrizi, T. P. Sloots and J. W. Tapsall</i>	17–23	Nucleic acid detection tests (NADT) for gonorrhoea are generally regarded as highly reliable, but recent experience has increasingly revealed some limitations. Data reviewed here suggests that while the utility of NADT for <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> depends on good laboratory practice and the qualities of individual NADT, even more important considerations are the sample tested and patient population. Supplemental testing with a second NADT is now a minimum requirement for diagnostic accuracy.
Safer heterosex: perspectives from young men in Ireland <i>A. Hyde, J. Drennan, E. Howlett and D. Brady</i>	25–30	This article reports on a qualitative study of how a sample of teenage men in Ireland construct safer sex. It draws attention to how notions of safer sex are discursively produced in the cultural milieu by the way in which potential sex partners – usually young women who mingle in the social circle – are perceived. These social cues are highly unreliable and likely to lead to sexual behaviours with adverse consequences.
Longitudinal predictability of sexual perceptions on subsequent behavioural intentions among Bahamian preadolescents <i>S. Yu, S. Marshall, L. Cottrell, X. Li, H. Liu, L. Deveaux, C. Harris, N. Brathwaite, S. Lunn and B. Stanton</i>	31–39	Utilising longitudinal data from 424 sexually inexperienced Bahamian youth, this study examines the relationship of baseline behavioural intentions and sexual perceptions with subsequent intentions regarding sexual initiation and condom use. We found that perceptions of females, compared to males, were less endorsing of sexual initiation. Some baseline sexual perceptions were predictive of subsequent behavioural intentions. Future prevention intervention efforts should target relevant perceptions and consider sex differences in sexual perceptions.
Sexual agency versus relational factors: a study of condom use antecedents among high-risk young African American women <i>R. A. Crosby, R. J. DiClemente, G. M. Wingood, L. F. Salazar, S. Head, E. Rose and J. McDermott-Sales</i>	41–47	Findings from this study of young African American females suggest that two relational factors (male-dominated power imbalances and fear of negotiating condom use) and two factors pertaining to sexual agency (sexual enjoyment and indication that 'stopping to use condoms takes the fun out of sex') may play relatively equal roles in determining condom use. Intervention programs may benefit this population by addressing sexual agency factors in addition to relational factors.
Sex trade in a male-to-female transgender population: psychosocial correlates of inconsistent condom use <i>K. Clements-Nolle, R. Guzman and S. G. Harris</i>	49–54	This study explored the psychosocial correlates of condom use among 190 male-to-female (MTF) transgender individuals involved in sex trade in San Francisco, California, USA. Multivariate logistic regression demonstrated that low self-esteem, a history of forced sex or rape and use of crack-cocaine were independently associated with inconsistent condom use during sex trade in the past 6 months. Multilevel interventions that address the psychosocial context of risk taking are needed for MTF transgender sex workers.

Prevalence of HIV and other sexually transmissible infections in relation to lemon or lime juice douching among female sex workers in Jos, Nigeria G. Imade, A. Sagay, D. Egah, V. Onwuliri, M. Grigg, C. Egbodo, T. Thacher, M. Potts and R. Short 55–60	This study aimed at determining whether any association exists between current lime/lemon juice douching and the prevalence of sexually transmissible infections (STIs)/HIV infections among female sex workers (FSW) in Jos, Nigeria. Consenting FSW who were users of lemon/lime or non-users were recruited and tested for HIV and other STIs. The results obtained from both groups were compared. There were no significant associations between the prevalence of STIs and HIV and lime/lemon juice usage.
Incidence of putative HIV superinfection and sexual practices among HIV-infected men who have sex with men M. M. Sidat, A. M. Mijch, S. R. Lewin, J. F. Hoy, J. Hocking and C. K. Fairley 61–67	This paper estimated the upper limit for the incidence of clinically important HIV superinfection among HIV-infected men who have sex with men (MSM). Ten cases were identified from 145 eligible MSM (7%, 95% confidence interval 3–11%), comprising a rate of 3.6 per 100 person-years at risk. Among this cohort of sexually active MSM the incidence of clinically significant HIV superinfection was likely to be less than 4% per year.
Syncope as a probable side effect to combination antiretroviral therapy initiated during primary HIV-1-infection D. Lybaek and C. S. Larsen 69–71	A previous healthy young man experienced several episodes of syncope while being treated with tenofovir, emtricitabine plus nevirapine initiated during primary HIV-1 infection. Symptoms disappeared after discontinuation of antiretroviral therapy and we suggest that syncope may be a not previous described side effect to one of the three antiretroviral drugs.
Screening for hepatitis C in sexual health clinic attendees M. C. Mapagu, S. J. Martin, M. J. Currie and F. J. Bowden 73–76	Screening for hepatitis C (HCV) in sexual health clinics may be based on risk assessment or universal screening. Clinical audit of patients tested for HCV at a sexual health clinic demonstrated that clinician-led risk assessment can identify most patients with risk factors for HCV and is an effective approach to screening.
Clinical significance of questionnaire-elicited or clinically reported anorectal symptoms for rectal <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> and <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> amongst men who have sex with men N. A. Lister, N. J. Chaves, C. W. Pang, A. Smith and C. K. Fairley 77–82	This study of 366 men who have sex with men found questionnaire report anal symptoms were much more common than anal symptoms reported by clients to their doctors (75% versus 16%, $P < 0.01$). Neither questionnaire elicited or reported to doctors predicted the presence of anal chlamydia infection, although some symptoms were more common in men with gonorrhoea.
Male sexuality in Vietnam: the case of male-to-male sex B. N. Vu, P. Girault, B. V. Do, D. Colby and L. T. H. Tran 83–88	Limited understanding of male-to-male sex and sexuality continues to be the major barrier to effective HIV prevention for men who have sex with men. This study explored the contexts and meanings of sex and relationships between men in southern Vietnam. There was a trade off between sexual pleasure and risk. Condoms may not be used, particularly when having sex with a good looking or perceived 'clean' partner.