



SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS, HIV/AIDS

DIFFERENCE IN SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR BETWEEN SYPHILIS AND GONORRHOEA CASES, BELGRADE, SERBIA

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Background: Although syphilis and gonorrhoea are “old” STDs they have become a “new” problem: syphilis resurgence is noticed worldwide and it is followed by HIV co-infection, while drug-resistant gonorrhoea could be an untreatable infection.

Objective: The aim was to identify any differences between syphilis and gonorrhoea cases.

Materials and Methods: In this cross-sectional study, data were collected from consecutive syphilis and gonorrhoea cases registered at the City Institute for Skin and Venereal Diseases in Belgrade in 2018.

Results: The study included 278 cases, 140 (50.4%) with gonorrhoea and 138 (49.6%) with syphilis. In comparison with gonorrhoea patients, syphilis patients were older, more frequently males and with higher education, had their first sexual intercourse later, at 20+ years of age, less frequently had a permanent sexual partner, were more frequently homosexual or bisexual, and during the last 6 months had less frequently vaginal sex, and more frequently anal sex and oral-anal sex, as well as sex with a foreigner. They also less frequently had gonorrhoea in their personal history, but more frequently syphilis and HBV infection, and they were more frequently HIV positive.

Conclusions: In comparison with gonorrhoea cases, patients with syphilis were more frequently MSM with more pronounced risk behaviour and HIV co-infection ($p < 0.001$).

