

September 29, 2006

FROM:

**HIV, STD and Hepatitis Branch
Public Health Services
Health and Human Services Agency
County of San Diego**

**Contents – STDHEP Update #21
Gonorrhea and HPV Update**

Disseminated Gonococcal Infection (DGI) in Washington State

Since March 2006, 11 cases of DGI have been identified in Washington State. Initial reports reveal common isolates by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) in all but one individual, with cases occurring mostly among heterosexuals, often reporting crack or other cocaine use. California medical providers should be alert to the possibility of DGI in patients presenting with classic features, including pustular or vesiculopustular skin lesions, polyarthralgias, tenosynovitis, and/or arthritis, that may or may not be purulent. In rare cases, DGI can progress to endocarditis, osteomyelitis, and/or meningitis.

In suspected cases, cultures of blood and affected sites (e.g., joint fluid, skin lesions, cerebrospinal fluid), as well as mucosal sites of sexual exposure (e.g., urethral or cervical, anal, and/or pharyngeal) should be obtained, independent of symptoms. First-line treatment of DGI involves multi-day therapy with intravenous ceftriaxone followed by an oral agent, for a total course of at least seven days.

In California, a small number of DGI cases is reported annually; to date in 2006, fewer than the average number of cases have been reported. The current Confidential Morbidity Report allows for reporting of positive gonococcal cultures at non-genital sites, and all positive isolates from confirmed cases should be directed to the Public Health Laboratory which will forward for susceptibility and PFGE testing.

Gonorrhea update in *Medical Action Report*

The next issue of the *California Medical Action Report*, published by the California Medical Board, features an article aimed at improving providers' awareness of gonorrhea screening and treatment guidelines. The *Medical Action Report* will be going to press next week, and will be available on-line at: http://www.medbd.ca.gov/Pubs_Actionrept.htm. The article will also be posted on the California STD/HIV Prevention Training Center website at: <http://www.stdhivtraining.org>. Clinicians are reminded that a large percentage of gonorrhea isolates are resistant to fluoroquinolones (ofloxin, ciprofloxin, etc.) and these drugs should not be used in California to treat gonorrhea.

HPV resources

CDC's Division of STD Prevention has recently updated its HPV Vaccine fact sheet for health care providers. Please visit: www.cdc.gov/std/HPV/STDFact-HPV-vaccine-hcp.htm.

An interim Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for HPV vaccine is now posted on CDC's website. It may be accessed at www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/VIS/vis-hpv.pdf. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' recommendations are currently under CDC review and will be published in *MMWR*, once approved by CDC. At that point, and once the vaccine is picked up by the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, a final edition of the VIS will be published. We will keep you posted as new updates are available.

Recruit a Colleague!

Do you have colleagues who would benefit from receiving STDHEP Updates?

If so, please pass this Update on to them!

STDHEP Updates are sent 4 – 5 times per year, and include **time-sensitive information** about **STDs and viral hepatitis**. Member emails are confidential, and users can unsubscribe at any time.

To join the STDHEP Email List, send an email to STDHEP.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov with "Join" in the subject line.

You can also call Craig Sturak, 619-692-8369, and ask to be added to the list.

STD clinic services, which include a dark-field examination of any suspect primary syphilis lesion, STD screening, confidential HIV counseling and testing, and selective risk-based Hepatitis vaccination, are available 5 days a week on a walk-in basis. Call 619-692-8550 for times and locations. Field and Community Services staff members are available to assist in any way, including transportation of clients to the clinic. Please call 619-692-8501 for assistance.

STD Consultation

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