Rising recalcitrant Trichomonas vaginalis; artefact or accurate?

R Scott¹, J Ashby¹, R Browne¹, E Jungmann¹

1. The Mortimer Market Centre, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust

Introduction

- An increased number of diagnoses of Trichomonas vaginalis (TV) in our services was noted in 2017.
- The increase coincided with a change from culture to Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAATs) for the diagnosis of TV and the merger of local services to include boroughs with a higher prevalence of TV.
- This study reviewed TV positivity rates within our service, with the aim to quantify and review the management of recalcitrant TV and explore the possibility of rising incidence of these types of cases.
- Recalcitrant TV can be difficult to manage as there is a paucity of data on optimal treatment regimens.
- Recalcitrance in this study was defined as persistent infection after two episodes of treatment in the absence of either re-infection and/or non-adherence.

Methods

- Cases were identified using national coding and local laboratory data.
- Notes were reviewed if more than 1 positive result.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient</th>
<th>Borough of origin</th>
<th>First treatment</th>
<th>Second treatment</th>
<th>Third treatment</th>
<th>Fourth treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient 1</td>
<td>South London</td>
<td>2g Stat</td>
<td>400mg BD 7/7</td>
<td>Tinidazole 2g stat</td>
<td>Tinidazole 2g BD 14/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient 2</td>
<td>Haringey</td>
<td>2g Stat</td>
<td>400mg BD 7/7</td>
<td>Tinidazole 2g OD 7/7</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient 3</td>
<td>Camden</td>
<td>2g Stat</td>
<td>400mg BD 7/7</td>
<td>Metronidazole 2g OD 7/7</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patient 4</td>
<td>Islington</td>
<td>2g Stat</td>
<td>400mg BD 7/7</td>
<td>Metronidazole 2g OD 7/7</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patient 5</td>
<td>Camden</td>
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<td>2g OD 7/7</td>
<td>Metronidazole 800mg TDS 7/7</td>
<td>Metronidazole 400mg BD 7/7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patient 6</td>
<td>Haringey</td>
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<td>400mg BD 7/7</td>
<td>Metronidazole 2g OD 7/7</td>
<td>Tinidazole 2g BD 14/7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions

- The significant increase in TV positivity rate is likely to reflect use of more sensitive diagnostic tools after the introduction of TV NAATs² and expanded geographical area of service provision.
- The need for re-treatment could be reduced by improving adherence, partner notification to reduce re-infection and testing after the appropriate time frame.
- The percentage of recalcitrant cases is small, but the trend appears to be increasing (0/36, i.e. 0%, in 2016 and 6/118, i.e. 5%, in 2017).
- The introduction of enhanced monitoring and reporting of recalcitrant TV would be beneficial to ascertain the national picture and identify strategies to reduce treatment failure.

References


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