

Concerns beyond dermatology and cosmetics in our Discipline. Awareness and knowledge of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) among population in Georgia. An epidemiological survey

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Abstract

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that nearly 20 million new STIs occur every year in this country, half of those among young people aged 15 to 24 (syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia and trichomoniasis). A real increase in incidence is due to the increased tendency to have unprotected sex without using a condom (1, 2). Another reason of the increased incidence is certainly related to the disinterest of most of population against these infections; this absence of interest is linked to lack of information dedicated to this subject, especially by young people and as a result to poor knowledge of the

problem represented by the STIs (3). It is also important to point out that in most developing countries, where the widespread use of antibiotics in the past decades has led to a drastic reduction in the spread of STIs, there is now a marked increase in viral STIs such as genital herpes and warts, and the re-emergence of diseases such as syphilis and lymphogranuloma venereum almost completely disappeared, (4). In fact, from the mid-1990s, the increase in diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections, including syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia were reported in several European countries, especially among

adolescent between 16-19 years (2). In addition, the sexually transmitted infections are a major health problem that affects mostly young people, not only in developing but also in developed countries. Noteworthy, the statistical reference of

the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, 2018.

Introduction

The aim of the study was to assess the risk of sexually transmitted diseases in the society of

reproductive age and to protect oneself from them.

Materials and methods

The survey instrument was an online self-administered anonymous questionnaire conducted using Google survey software, which automatically populates and saves digital responses to a secure database protecting participant confidentiality throughout the surveying process. The survey was conducted in 2019. The opportunity to participate in the questionnaire was one-time. The questionnaire

for this study was developed based on a review of literature. The questionnaire contained 11 questionnaires and 2-6 approximate answers. 3074 persons took part in the survey. Of these, 73.2% (N=2250) - Female, 26.8% (N=824) - Male. The age was distributed as follows: 39.9% - 21-25 years. (N=1224); 37.9% - 25 <yr. (N=1164); 18.3% - 18-20 years. (N=561); 4.0% - 15-17 years. (N=125). (Table I, II).

	2016		2017		2018	
	Number of cases	Incidence per 100000 inhabitants	Number of cases	Incidence per 100000 inhabitants	Number of cases	Incidence per 100000 inhabitants
Syphilis	1349	36.3	1244	33.4	1243	33.4
Gonococcal infection	923	24.8	798	21.4	765	20.5
Chlamydial infection	2507	67.4	2446	65.6	2084	55.9
Trichomoniasis	6880	185.0	5933	159.1	5137	137.8

Table I. New cases of sexually transmitted infections, Georgia.

		Age groups											
		all		0 - 14		15 - 19		20 - 29		30 - 39		40 and over	
		Number Of cases	incidence	Number Of cases	incidence	Number Of cases	incidence	Number Of cases	incidence	Number Of cases	incidence	Number Of cases	incidence
Syphilis, all forms	M	773	43.2	0	0	18	16.4	239	95.0	251	95.9	265	34.1
	W	470	470	2	1.5	1.5	5.1	109	45.6	174	66.2	180	18.4
Gonococcal infection	M	580	32.4	0	0	37	33.7	361	143.5	137	52.4	45	5.8
	W	185	9.6	0	0	1	1.0	88	36.8	66	25.1	30	3.1
Chlamydial infection	M	614	614	0	0	614	26.4	279	110.9	226	86.4	80	10.3
	W	1470	614	0	0	57	58.5	765	320.2	501	190.6	147	15.0
Trichomoniasis	M	1207	67.4	1	0.7	28	25.5	588	233.7	392	149.8	198	25.5
	W	3930	20.3	46	34.1	221	1906	1906	797.8	1162	442.0	595	60.8

Table II. Sexually transmitted infections, new cases distribution by age and sex, Georgia, 2018.

Results

The results of the study revealed a lack of knowledge about sexually transmitted diseases. Underestimation of the primary clinical signs of sexually transmitted diseases. Lack of awareness of the necessity and use of defense methods, as well as consultation with a non-specialist doctor, not only leads to the spread of the disease but also endangers the health that can lead to infertility. All this is reflected in the demographic aspect as well. We have submitted the existing issue to the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia for consideration. "Inclusive Learning Support" program "Second Chance of Education

Discussion

As you know, many skin diseases, which can also be infectious in nature, occur in preschool and school-age children. In the upper classes, we face another problem, which is called sexually transmitted diseases and their spread. From all of

Conclusions

In general, the studies reported low levels of knowledge and awareness of sexually transmitted diseases. Although, as shown by some of the findings on condom use, knowledge does

References

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through Social Inclusion" sub-program, which allowed us to conduct a lecture-seminar with teachers, because the existing problem and questions are addressed to them in the first place. Numerous questions were asked during the lecture-seminar, which mainly included a question asked by a student that had no answer or the teacher tried to answer it through a social network. As you know, many skin diseases, which can also be infectious in nature, occur in preschool and school-age children. In the upper classes, we face another problem, which is called sexually transmitted diseases and their spread.

the above, there is a need to develop appropriate educational programs for the sexual education of school-age and adolescent youth, which will help prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections and establish a healthy lifestyle.

not always translate into behavior change, adolescents' sex education is important for STD prevention, and the school setting plays an important role.