

Training course in adolescent sexual and reproductive
health 2019

Sexually transmitted infections prevention and care

Pagnimdbsom Teegawindé Arsène Bafiogo

Centre Médical de Sideradougou, Comoé, Burkina Faso

arsenebafiogo@gmail.com

Introduction

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are infections caused by bacteria, viruses and parasites transmitted through sexual contact, including vaginal, anal and oral sex. They become more and more numerous mainly among adolescents and youth. In the following, we shall answer questions about STIs.

Question 1:

List three serious long-term consequences of STI.

The three serious long-term consequences of STI are:

- Stillbirths and fetal deaths caused by syphilis
- Infertility caused by gonorrhoea and chlamydia
- Cervical cancer caused by Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)

Question 2.1:

What is the estimated trend in chlamydia prevalence in men and women aged 15-49 years in your region? How does it compare with the global prevalence?

The estimated trend in chlamydia prevalence in men and women aged 15-49 years in African region is:

- In men the trend is increasing. It is passed from 2.5% in 2012 to 4% in 2016 and means that many men contract STIs every year.
- In women, the trend is also increasing passing from 3.7% in 2012 to 5% in 2016 and this means that the number of STIs caused by chlamydia increase every year among women.

In comparison, we notice that the global prevalence of chlamydia in men is stationary (2.7% in 2012 and 2.7% in 2016) but increasing in African region in the same period. Here, there is not change about the number of STIs caused by chlamydia in men's group in the world.

The global prevalence of chlamydia in women is decreasing because it is passed from 4.2% in 2012 to 3.8% in 2016 and contrary to African region where it increases. In the global point of view, the number of STIs caused by chlamydia decreases every year in women's group.

Question 2.2:

Give two reasons why the global/regional/national prevalence and incidence estimates of STI are important.

- First, prevalence and incidence data are used in the design and evaluation of programs and interventions for STIs.
- Second, these estimates are important for calculation of the burden of disease due to STIs, which are needed to advocate for funding to support STI programs.

Question 3:

Identify one barrier from the perspective of providers and one from the perspective of users to the provision and uptake of STI case management services.

Identify one barrier from the perspective of providers and one from the perspective of users to the provision and uptake of STI case of management services.

From the perspective of providers, it is the staff shortage which is the barrier.

From the perspective of users, the barrier is the lack of confidentiality and privacy.

Question 4.1:

Provide a brief definition of brief sexuality-related communication (BSC). Name one way in which BSC is similar to and one way in which it is different from counselling. Name its four components.

Brief sexuality-related communication (BSC) is a concept which takes into account the psychological and social dimensions of sexual health and well-being as well as the biological ones, focuses on the opportunistic use of counseling skills.

BSC is similar to counseling in psychological and social approach and different in emotional ones.

The four components of BSC are: attending, responding, personalizing and initiating.

Question 4.2:

In the TEDX talk Dr Teodora Wi calls for an open and stigma-free discussion about sex. In your context, describe briefly how BSC could contribute to this.

BSC could contribute during the consultation for example. The provider can take a few minutes to talk about sexuality with adolescents in order to make them understand it and to have responsible behavior. This could establish trust between provider and adolescent and lead the last one to be free for share their health's problems and sexual ones in particular. BSC can also contribute by sensitizing parents about sexuality and the necessity for them to discuss with their children without taboo. They must make them know that knowledge on sexuality has many advantages in children's life and for sexual well-being promotion.

Question 5.1:

Why is it important to provide the HPV vaccination? Does your country have a national policy and strategy for HPV vaccination? If so, briefly describe it.

It is important to provide the HPV vaccination because of major consequences like cancer that it causes when it is contracted.

Burkina Faso has not a national policy and strategy for HPV vaccination.

Question 5.2:

In your context which is the most important intervention that could be delivered along with HPV vaccine? Explain why.

In our context, the most important intervention that could be delivered along with HPV vaccine is sexual and reproductive health education, HIV prevention and condom promotion. This intervention is the most important because it allows adolescents to know more about sexual and reproductive health. This knowledge will help them to have responsible sexual behavior and to prevent STIs, unintended pregnancies and abortion.

Conclusion

The number of STIs increase in African region every year regarding of estimates in 2012 and 2016. However, BSC can contribute to promote sexual well-being, this can lead the decrease of STIs. STIs can have major consequences like cervical cancer which is caused by HPV, so it would be able for governments to have a policy for its vaccination, Burkina Faso in particular.

References

1. **WHO recommendations on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights.** Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018. 88p
2. **Rowley J et al.** Chlamydia, gonorrhoea, trichomoniasis and syphilis: global prevalence and incidence estimates, 2016, Bull World Health Organ 2019;97:548-562P
3. **Brief Sexuality-Related Communication, Recommendations for a public health approach.** World Health Organization; 2015;72p
4. **Paul Bloem,** HPV vaccination and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health, Expanded Program of Immunization/IVB. World Health Organization, Geneva
5. **Options for linking health interventions for adolescents with HPV vaccination,** World Health Organization, 2014