



Oppurtunistic Vaginal Swabs in Early Pregnancy Clinic

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Introduction

Chlamydia Trachomatis is the most common sexually transmitted disease in New Zealand and rates are increasing. It is asymptomatic in 70-90% of women. Regional locations in New Zealand have two to three times higher rates of Chlamydia than Australia and the UK.

The purpose of this study was to recognise the frequency of STI and pelvic infection in the high risk population attending early pregnancy clinic in a rural area in NZ and to determine if it's of benefit to use this time for opportunistic vaginal swabs.

Results

Of the 216 women, 143 (66.5%) had swabs performed in the last 6 months and 72 (33.5%) did not. Of the ladies who had swabs done, 101 (70.6%) had a normal swab result and 42 (29.4%) had an abnormal result. Of the ladies with abnormal swab results, 24 (57.1%) were positive for Bacterial Vaginosis, 11 (26.2%) were positive for Chlamydia, 5 (11.9%) were positive for Candidiasis and 2 (4.8%) were positive for Trichomonas Vaginalis.

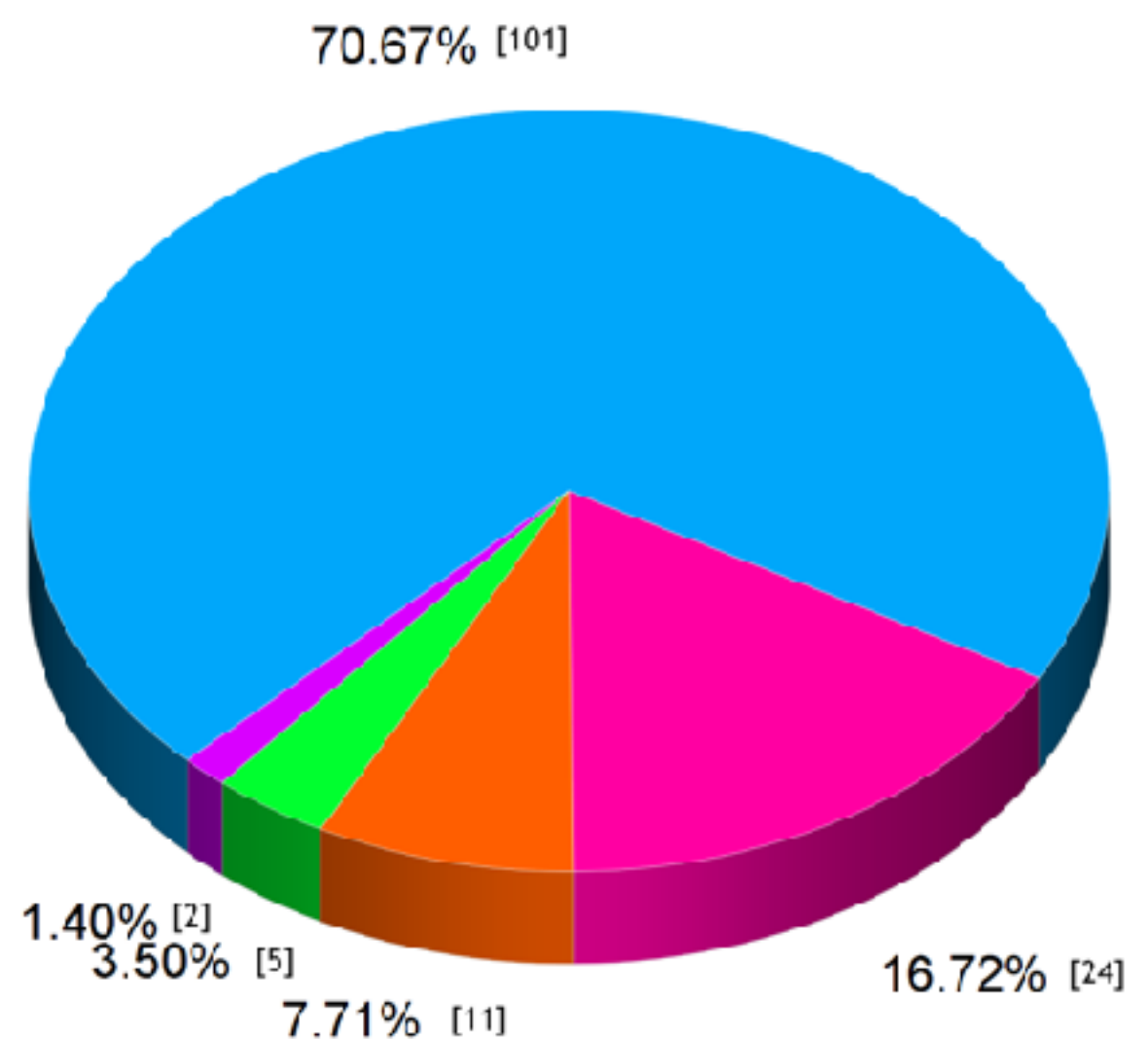
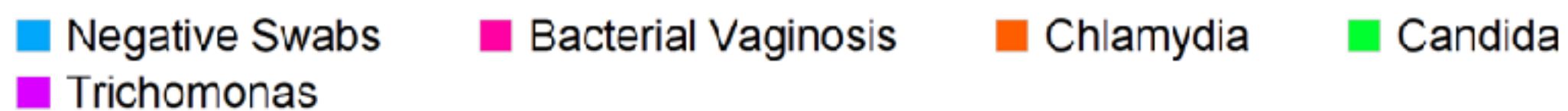
Conclusion

In conclusion, many of the women who had recent swabs done were found to have an infection. These findings demonstrate the importance of using opportunistic moments like early pregnancy clinic to screen high risk populations for STD's and other vaginal infections.



Methods

Undertaken in secondary care centre in a rural region. 216 women who attended early pregnancy clinic between May 2018 and January 2019 had their notes examined to see if they had vaginal swabs performed in the last 6 months and whether they were positive for infection.



Swab Results

References

1. STI Surveillance Team. Sexually transmitted infections in New Zealand. Annual Surveillance Report