
https://arctichealth.org/en/permalink/ahliterature168098

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Source: Sex Transm Dis. 2007 Jan;34(1):30-6

Date: Jan-2007

Language: English

Publication Type: Article

Keywords: Adult
Alberta - epidemiology
Cohort Studies
Ethnic Groups - statistics & numerical data
Female
Gonorrhea - epidemiology - ethnology - etiology - pathology
Humans
Incidence
Male
Recurrence
Retrospective Studies
Sexual Behavior
Sexually Transmitted Diseases - epidemiology - ethnology - etiology - pathology

Abstract: The objective of this study was to identify characteristics associated with reinfection in sexually transmitted disease (STD) patients in Alberta, Canada.

A retrospective cohort of 5,701 STD patients with gonorrhea diagnosed between 1991 and 2003 were followed for incident gonorrhea. Rates of reinfection were estimated and multivariate logistic regression was used to identify patient characteristics associated with reinfection.

There were 568 reinfections in 460 individuals, with reinfection occurring at a median of 9.2 months with an incidence rate of 2.34 per 100 person-years (95% confidence interval [CI], 2.09-2.59). The highest risk of reinfection was found in patients of black ethnicity (adjusted hazard ratio [aHR], 3.31; 95% CI, 2.27-4.81), aboriginal ethnicity (aHR, 2.64; 95% CI, 1.96-3.56), those reporting homo-/bisexual practice (aHR, 2.05; 95% CI, 1.40-3.02), or treated at an STD clinic (aHR, 1.49; 95% CI, 1.15-1.94).

The recognition of key demographic and behavioral characteristics can help focus interventions for patients at higher risk of gonorrhea reinfection.

PubMed ID: 16878054 View in PubMed