

Seroprevalence of syphilis and HIV in intravenous drug users

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Abstract

Background: Drug-users are at high risk for acquisition and transmission of STD due to their risky sexual practice. The objective of this study was to determine the seroprevalence of syphilis and HIV-I in inpatients admitted for detoxification of drug-use. Method: A total of 934 Saudi male patients were tested for syphilis serology by VDRL. Positive cases were confirmed by TPHA. Serum tests for human immunodeficiency virus were also obtained. Results: The overall prevalence of confirmed syphilis cases was 1.07%, while none of these cases tested positive for HIV. Conclusion: The seroprevalence of syphilis and HIV infection is low among the Saudi drug addicts. The reason for this is not known and further studies are needed to explain it