



SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS, HIV/AIDS

ACUTE URETHRITIS IN TUNISIAN MILITARY POPULATION: AN 18-YEAR EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REVIEW OF MEDICAL RECORDS

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Introduction: The majority of military agents are young, predominantly male. They are exposed to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Among these infections, acute urethritis (AU) accounts for a substantial part of medical and socio-economic problem.

Objective: to determine the epidemiological and clinical characteristics of AU in military people.

Materials and methods : A retrospective study of clinical records of all men presenting with AU in the Dermatology Department of the Military hospital of instruction of Tunis over a period of 18 years (2000-2017).

Results: We collected 128 cases. The mean age was 25 years. Our patients had a median of 2 sex partners in the last 3 months. The type of sexuality has not been specified. A history of sexually transmitted infection was found in 6.2% of cases (4.2% previously treated for venereal vegetations and 2% had an episode of AU). Most had abundant yellow urethral discharge (79%) and 14 % had clear discharge. Urinary symptoms were found in 7% of cases (4% had burning upon urination and 2.3 % had dysuria). They were treated according to the syndromic approach with spectinomycine, ceftioxone or cefixime. An anti chlamydia treatment was associated. Serologies of other STDs were requested in all cases. They were recovered in 55 % of cases and negative. Antibiotic resistance was noted in 5% of cases. Two cases of AU were complicated by prostatitis.

Conclusions: The majority of infectious urethritis cases in men is caused by sexually transmitted diseases. The population at risk is mainly young people as in our case. There has been a resurgence of STDs in recent years. This is explained by a drop in awareness campaigns around the world. Over a period of 18 years, only 128 cases of AU were collected. This shows increased awareness about STDs in the military with constant efforts to reduce risky behavior with the availability and free distribution of condoms in our barracks.

