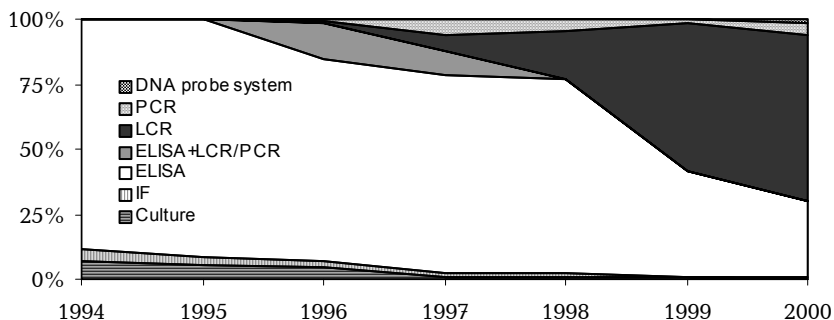


CHLAMYDIA 2000

No. 38, 2001

Fig. 1. Methods used for chlamydia diagnosis in Denmark, 1994-2000



According to the nation-wide laboratory reporting system, 14,735 cases of chlamydia (occulogenital *C. trachomatis* infection) were diagnosed in 2000. The incidence was 276 per 100,000. Since 1994 about 260-280 thousand tests have been carried out per year, with positive findings in about 5%, EPI-NEWS 38/00. The number of diagnosed cases has risen since 1998 (1998: 12,831; 1999: 13,930). The age distribution was largely unchanged from previous years, 80% of male and 88% of female cases falling within the 15-29-year age range, Table 1. 30% of diagnosed cases were in men.

Table 1. Age-specific occurrence of chlamydia in cases where both age and sex were stated, 2000

| Age | Men | | Women | |
|-------|-------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| | No. | per 100,000 | No. | per 100,000 |
| <1 | 31 | 91 | 51 | 157 |
| 1-4 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 5-9 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 10-14 | 3 | 2 | 40 | 27 |
| 15-19 | 610 | 425 | 2,965 | 2,150 |
| 20-24 | 1,772 | 1,029 | 4,352 | 2,597 |
| 25-29 | 1,091 | 562 | 1,833 | 968 |
| 30-34 | 422 | 199 | 619 | 306 |
| 35-39 | 208 | 101 | 277 | 141 |
| 40-44 | 87 | 46 | 114 | 62 |
| 45-49 | 31 | 17 | 54 | 30 |
| 50+ | 61 | 7 | 45 | 5 |
| Total | 4,323 | 165 | 10,351 | 384 |

Diagnosis

Diagnosis was by DNA methods in 70% of cases, a rise from 58% in 1999. One department of clinical microbiology also introduced a new NA probe system, Fig. 1. 805 more cases of chlamydia were diagnosed in 2000 than in 1999, more tests were performed and a higher proportion of these were by the more sensitive DNA methods. In 406 patients (3%) chlamydia was demonstrated using urine tests by DNA methods. Results from urine tests were reported from 7 of 18 laboratories.

Chlamydia in children

Chlamydia was found in 133 children under 15 years of age. 82 children were under the age of one year and 63 of these had conjunctivitis, 51 (81%) of these were in neonates. The number of children with chlamydia under the age of one year has fallen steadily since 1995.

Geographical distribution

There are still considerable geographical differences in the occurrence of diagnosed chlamydia cases, especially in the proportion of cases in men. The average M/F incidence ratio was 0.43, almost unchanged from 0.42 in 1999, Table 2.

Table 2. Incidence of laboratory-diagnosed chlamydia by county and sex, 2000

| County | No. per 100,000 | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----|------|
| | M | F | M/F |
| Cph. and Frb. | | | |
| Municipalities | 302 | 569 | 0.53 |
| Cph. County | 104 | 317 | 0.33 |
| Frederiksborg | 133 | 272 | 0.49 |
| Roskilde | 115 | 267 | 0.43 |
| West Zealand | 154 | 386 | 0.40 |
| Storstrøm | 107 | 282 | 0.38 |
| Bornholm | 73 | 277 | 0.26 |
| Funen | 150 | 354 | 0.42 |
| South Jutland | 132 | 384 | 0.34 |
| Ribe | 153 | 291 | 0.53 |
| Vejle | 137 | 358 | 0.38 |
| Ringkøbing | 169 | 389 | 0.44 |
| Aarhus | 236 | 476 | 0.50 |
| Viborg | 125 | 308 | 0.41 |
| North Jutland | 159 | 453 | 0.35 |
| Total | 165 | 384 | 0.43 |

Comments

There has been no definite change in the reported incidence of chlamydia. The rise in the number of diagnosed cases since 1998 may be explained by the increasing use of DNA-based test methods. The number of partners treated without prior testing is unknown. Contact tracing is thought to be carried out on an inadequate scale and too few men are being tested and treated. Greater emphasis should be placed on testing both men and women in the 15-29-year age group.

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NEW CONJUGATED GROUP C MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINE

In June 2001 a conjugated vaccine against meningococcal disease (MD) due to serogroup C was registered in Denmark. The vaccine is conjugated with tetanus toxoid. Vaccines conjugated with diphtheria toxoid are expected to be registered shortly.

A polysaccharide vaccine against serogroups A and C has been in use for many years. It is used for travellers going abroad, close contacts of patients with group C MD and in group C outbreaks. The vaccine is immunogenic in adults and children over the age of two years, and provides immunity for about three years. The advantage of the new conjugated vaccine is that it can be given to children from the age of two months and that it probably gives longer protection, i.e. over three years. Children under 12 months of age should be given 3 doses at an interval of at least one month, while all others should be given a single dose. The vaccine can be given at the same time as other childhood vaccines, but by separate injection at a different site. The vaccines have few side effects.

The incidence of group C MD is very low in Denmark, about 20 cases per year, EPI-NEWS 18/01, and about 1/3 of patients are under 7 years of age. There are therefore no plans at present to add a conjugated group C vaccine to the childhood vaccination programme. Patients have to pay for the vaccine, but the price has not yet been set. Group C vaccine is not usually suitable for foreign travel, as the aim is mostly to protect against group A.

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Patients with laboratory-diagnosed RSV or rotavirus infections, 2nd quarter 2001

| April | | May | | June | |
|-------|------|-----|------|------|------|
| RSV | Rota | RSV | Rota | RSV | Rota |
| 122 | 114 | 25 | 67 | 1 | 13 |

Reported from the following Clinical Microbiology Departments:
Aalborg Hospital (South), Aarhus Municipal Hospital, Herning Central Hospital,
Hvidovre Hospital, Odense University Hospital, Slagelse Central Hospital,
Viborg Hospital, and Dept. of Virology, Statens Serum Institut.

(Dept. of Epidemiology)
