

**Laboratory-diagnosed cases**

In the year 2000, gonorrhoea was diagnosed in 335 patients, 291 men and 44 women, [Table 1](#). The rising trend seen since 1996 thus appears to have levelled off. The M/F ratio was 6.6. 51% of all male gonorrhoea cases were diagnosed in the Municipalities of Copenhagen and Frederiksberg, as against 55% in 1999.

**Table 1. Patients with laboratory-diagnosed gonorrhoea, by sex, 1996-2000**

	Total	M	F	M/F
1996	178	142	36	3.9
1997	189	154	35	4.4
1998	211	187	24	7.8
1999	334	291	43	6.8
2000	335	291	44	6.6

**Pharyngeal and rectal gonorrhoea**

14% of men with gonorrhoea had pharyngeal swabs taken, 31% of which were positive. For women, the corresponding figures were 11% and 60%, respectively. 13% of men with gonorrhoea were swabbed from the rectum, 23% of these with positive results.

**Resistant gonococci**

The frequency of penicillin-resistant gonococci was 34% (40% in 1999), and 20% were penicillinase-producing. This was largely unchanged from 1995-1999, whereas the frequency of fluoroquinolone-resistance fell from 27% in 1999 to 15% in 2000; 7% of strains were both penicillin- and fluoroquinolone-resistant (17% in 1999).

**Treatment of gonorrhoea**

The most suitable agent is ceftriaxone 250 mg i.m. x 1. If a fluoroquinolone is used, it is important to perform a control culture no earlier than three days after the end of treatment or as soon as possible thereafter. If fluoroquinolones are contraindicated and the gonococcal strain is sensitive to penicillin, pivampicillin 1.4 g plus probenecid 1 g can be used. Control culture should also be performed in these cases. Pharyngeal gonorrhoea requires longer treatment: fluoroquinolone should be given for two days and pivampicillin plus probenecid for three days.

**Control culture**

As in primary investigation for

**GONORRHOEA 2000**

gonorrhoea, and irrespective of which swabs were positive originally, control culture should be performed from urethral, rectal and pharyngeal swabs in men, and from the cervix as well in women. Control cultures should be taken even if symptoms have disappeared.

**Notified cases**

154 cases of gonorrhoea were notified in 2000, comprising 136 men and 18 women. This is similar to 1999, when 148 cases were notified, EPI-NEWS 25/00. Notifications corresponded to 46% of laboratory-diagnosed cases. The median age was 30 years for men (range 18-67 years) and 31 years for women (range 23-59 years). 95 patients (62%) were from the greater Copenhagen area. General practitioners were responsible for 32% of the notifications, while 64% were from clinics for sexually transmitted diseases. Most patients (68%) were tested at their own request, while 24% were tested on the physician's initiative.

**Transmission**

53 men (39%) were infected by other men, while 77 men (57%) were heterosexually infected, 14 (10%) of these by prostitutes. The mode of infection was unstated for six men. All 18 women were infected heterosexually. 45 (85%) of homosexually infected men and 37 (48%) of heterosexually infected men were infected in Denmark. Of the homosexually infected, 9% were stated to have been infected abroad. This proportion was 42% for heterosexually infected males, 10 of whom were infected in Thailand and nine in the rest of Asia. A total of 88 persons (57%) were infected by casual contact, while 26 (17%) were infected by a steady partner. This distribution was respectively 61% and 11% for men and 28% and 61% for women. Two women were prostitutes, one of whom was an i.v. drug user. 42 (55%) of the heterosexually infected men and 40 (75%) of the homosexually infected men were infected by casual contact. A total of 114 (74%) of the notified patients were born in Denmark, while 37 (24%) were immigrants. National origin was unstated in three cases. The immigrants were from many different countries: 16 (43%)

were from another

European country and six (16%) were from Pakistan. Four (8%) of the homosexually infected men were HIV-positive; this proportion was 28% in 1998 and 13% in 1999. All were infected by casual contact, one in Denmark and three in another European country.

**Contact tracing**

In 95 cases (62%) it was stated that contact tracing would be undertaken. This applied to 85% of those infected by a steady partner, 65% of those infected by casual contact and 29% of those infected by prostitutes.

**Comments**

The number of gonorrhoea cases in 2000 was unchanged from 1999 for both men and women, while numbers are still rising rapidly in many of our neighbouring countries. The frequency of fluoroquinolone-resistance was nearly halved. For men, there was a rise in rectal and pharyngeal swabbing. The frequency of positive findings was unchanged for pharyngeal swabs, but fell for rectal swabs from 54% in 1999 to 23% in 2000. The taking of pharyngeal and rectal swabs should still be increased, as these asymptomatic infections constitute an infective reservoir. Men notified in 2000 as homosexually infected (39%) or heterosexually infected abroad (24%) together made up 63% of male cases. The proportion of homosexually infected Danish men known to be HIV-positive has been falling, but was still 8%. Homosexually infected men should therefore be offered follow-up testing for HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B. (S. Hoffmann, Dept. of Respiratory Infections, Meningitis and STIs, E. Smith, Dept. of Epidemiology)

**SMALLPOX VACCINE**

Statens Serum Institut has had requests for the issue of smallpox vaccine. The prevention of smallpox by vaccination of the civil population is regarded as unnecessary and is not currently being undertaken anywhere in the world. The Institute reserves a stock of smallpox vaccine for use in smallpox outbreaks or epidemics.

(Department of Epidemiology)

**Patients with positive cultures of pathogenic intestinal bacteria, May - June 2001, by county**

County	<u>Campylobacter</u>		<u>Yersinia ent.</u>		<u>S. typhimurium</u>		<u>S. enteritidis</u>		Other zoon. <u>Salmonella spp.</u>	
	May	June	May	June	May	June	May	June	May	June
Copenhagen Municip.	31	48	6	3	-	1	11	9	8	13
Frederiksberg Municip.	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Copenhagen	49	75	6	2	5	2	7	5	9	7
Frederiksborg	25	52	2	2	2	1	5	8	8	9
Roskilde	14	36	2	3	2	4	7	12	10	1
West Zealand	1	11	2	-	3	1	5	12	2	4
Storstrøms	14	27	-	-	-	3	8	12	3	2
Bornholms	-	6	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Funen	27	54	1	1	5	7	13	9	8	5
South Jutland	17	29	1	-	6	4	6	6	2	3
Ribe	14	26	-	-	4	3	6	14	7	3
Vejle	17	55	1	-	1	6	4	13	10	8
Ringkøbing	20	52	1	3	1	3	5	4	1	6
Aarhus	34	70	3	5	3	4	4	14	11	14
Viborg	8	13	1	-	-	-	6	6	3	7
North Jutland	18	40	2	4	2	4	6	14	8	14
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DK May / June 2001	292	600	28	24	34	43	93	139	90	96
DK May / June 2000	293	502	17	23	30	26	103	84	57	49

(Dept. of Gastrointestinal Infections)