



Will Men Collect a Penile-Meatal Swab for the Diagnosis of Sexually Transmitted Infections in a Clinical Setting?

Perry Barnes Jr. BS¹, Mathilda Barnes, MS, CCRP¹, Yu-Hsiang Hsieh, PhD², Laura Dize, BS¹ and Charlotte Gaydos, MS, MPH, DrPH^{1,2}

Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. Emergency Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.

Poster T-58

Contact: Pbarnes9@jhmi.edu 410-614-2044

BACKGROUND

- Urethral swabs are routinely collected by clinicians to diagnose sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in men who visit STD clinics.
- If men would self-collect their own penile swab specimen for STD testing, more men may seek testing and this approach could save valuable clinician time.
- To ascertain men's preferences for the use of penile swabs, we asked men visiting a STD clinic to self-collect a diagnostic penile swab, and answer a short survey.

Table 1	Participant Reported Previous STI				Self Penile Swab: Ease of Use		Age of Participants	
	Yes	No	Not Sure	Missing	Very Easy			
STI Infections					Very Easy	119 (58.6%)	17-20	17 (8.4%)
Chlamydia	78 (38.4%)	120 (59.1%)	2 (1%)	4 (2%)	Easy	65 (32%)	21-30	99 (48.8%)
Gonorrhea	58 (28.6%)	139 (68.5%)	3 (1.5%)	4 (2%)	OK	16 (7.9%)	31-40	33 (16.3%)
Trichomonas	15 (7.4%)	180 (88.7%)	5 (2.5%)	4 (2%)	Hard	0	41-50	20 (9.9%)
Herpes/HSV	9 (4.4%)	189 (93.1%)	2 (1%)	4 (2%)	Very Hard	0	51+	32 (15.8%)
Syphilis	13 (6.4%)	185 (91.1%)	2 (1%)	4 (2%)	Missing	4 (2%)	Missing	3 (1.5%)
					Symptoms			
					Yes	128 (63%)		
					No	64 (31.5%)		
					Missing	9 (4.4%)		

METHODS

- Men attending the Baltimore City Health Department STD Clinics were asked to participate in self-collecting a penile swab study after a clinician had obtained a urethral swab and were given a short survey to gain information about their sexual history and preferences.
- A kit with directions, a diagram, and a Copan flocced swab to self-collect a penile swab specimen were provided.
- The questionnaire also asked preferences about ease of collection, and willingness-to-pay for a mail-in or over the counter (OTC) purchase of a self-collection penile diagnostic kit, if it were available.

RESULTS

- Of the 203 men participating, from whom urethral and penile pairs were available, 100% preferred the penile swab as a diagnostic sampling device.
- Willingness to Pay 68.5% would pay \$10, 17.2% would pay \$20, 6.4% would pay \$30, 1% would pay \$40, 5.4% would pay \$50, and 2% had missing data.
- Race Black (91.1%), White (2.5%), Asian/Pacific Islander (0.5%); Native American (0%), Multiracial (0%), Hispanic (1.5%), missing data 2%.
- Of participants, 96.6 % reported ever having been tested for HIV.

RESULTS (cont)

- Reported number of partners in last 90 days: None (3.9%), 1 (50.7%), 2-4 partners (38.4%), 5-9 (3.4%), 10-15 (1%), >16 (1%), missing data (2%).
- Use of condoms reported: Never (13.8%); Sometimes (35.5%); Most of the time (33%); Always (16.3%); no data (2%).

CONCLUSIONS

- Self-collected penile specimens were the preferred choice of sample type for all men in the study.
- Most men (90%) reported self-collecting a penile swab specimen was very easy or easy and most (85%) would be willing to pay \$10.00 to \$20.00 if a penile swab test kit were available OTC in the future.