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Track C - Surveillance of HIV and AIDS

CDC0231 - Differential source of transmission in sexually acquired HIV infections in Hong Kong

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Background: Sexual transmission is the most important route of HIV infection in Hong Kong. The source of infection in heterosexual and homosexual patients may differ and is of relevance to prevention programming.

Methods: HIV infected patients newly attending the government clinic in Hong Kong since 2001 have been assessed for epidemiologic information by nurse counsellors using a standardised questionnaire. This study focused on the findings of suspected source of HIV in sexually acquired cases from 2001 to 2006.

Results: A total of 762 HIV infected patients (85.5% of total) were sexually acquired, with 599 (78.6%) being ethnic Chinese. The median age was 36.3 and 79% had secondary or above education. There were 302 heterosexual male (HEM), 322 men who have sex with men (MSM) and 138 heterosexual female (HEF). For HEM, MSM and HEF respectively, they were believed to have contracted HIV from the 3 major sources of spouse/regular sex partner (SRSP), commercial sex partner (CSP), and non-regular non-commercial sex partner (NRNCSP) in 15.2%, 51.7%, 20.2% (HEM), 17.7%, 2.2%, 62.7% (MSM) and 75.4%, 94%, 8.0% (HEF). The difference was statistically significant, as compared to other groups, for source of infection being SRSP in HEF, CSP in HEM and NRNCSP in MSM, with OR (95% CI) at 24.14 (12.46-46.8), 27.30 (15.45-48.24) and 67.73 (30.36-151.11) respectively. Overall, at least 193 (25.3%) had spouse/regular partner tested positive.

Conclusions: The source of HIV differed significantly among the sexually transmitted patients in our patients. Commercial sex, non-regular non-commercial sex and sex with spouse/regular partner were the most important source of infection in heterosexual male, MSM and heterosexual female respectively. The findings help to inform implementation of targeted intervention activities to more effectively prevent HIV in different risk populations.

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