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Evaluation of the prevalence and risk factor of *Chlamydia trachomatis* infection among subjects in some Niger Delta communities, Nigeria

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Background & Aim: *Chlamydia trachomatis* infection is one of the neglected sexually transmitted disease of mostly woman in sub-Saharan Africa and across the globe in general. Nevertheless, the development of signs and symptoms such as vagina discharge and genital pain is very rare among the infected subjects. Hence, the infected subjects may live with it for so long without being aware that they are carriers, there by constituting a public health risk to the general public. The aim is to state that there is paucity of data with respect to the prevalence and associated risk factors of above infection in the region of study thus, it is therefore strongly believed that information generated would be helpful in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the disease in our remote communities, even as the associated risk factors that tend to promote the easy spread of the infection in our remote localities would be well appreciated.

Method: A total of 275 samples comprising of first void urine, endo-cervical swabs and urethral swabs were collected from 128 male and 147 female subjects after securing an oral consent form the subjects and ethical approval was also gotten from the ethical committee of Rivers State Hospital Management Board. The subjects were selected by random sampling technique. Screenings of the specimens were carried out using Chlamydia qualitative rapid test kit.

Result: The prevalence of *Chlamydia trachomatis* infections according to age was 1.82% for age 15-17 years, 1.8% for age 18-30 years and 2.18% for age 31-45 years. The overall prevalence was 16 (5.8%), the highest prevalence was observed among the age group of 31-45 years (2.18%). The prevalence of infections among the study subjects in relation to gender was 3.64% for female and 2.18% for males. The prevalence for marital status was highest among singles 4.36%. However, married and widowed subjects had the same prevalence of 0.73%. HIV subjects and multiple sex partners showed a strong associated risk factor, (OR) 5.143 and 4.471, respectively at 95% confidence interval.

Conclusion: It is therefore strongly recommended that, there is a need for prompt and regular diagnosis check-up and health education should also be provided to the people, so as to curb the spread of the infection in our communities, especially among the healthy carriers.

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