



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Achieve International Excellence



DEPARTMENT
OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

The Love Bug Survey

Master's Thesis

14th January 2013 - 7th June 2013

Melanie Haag

Supervising Tutors

Prof. Rhonda Clifford

Prof. Kurt E. Hersberger

A/Professor Sajni Gudka

Dr. phil. Isabelle Arnet

Pharmacy Practice Education Evaluation and Research Group

The University of Western Australia

Pharmaceutical Care Research Group

University of Basel

Abstract

Background: In Australia, *Chlamydia trachomatis* is the most commonly diagnosed sexually transmitted disease. The infection is well known for rarely causing symptoms and leads to serious long-term consequences. National guidelines recommend easy and youth friendly access to chlamydia testing including late evening and weekend opening hours. For this purpose, community pharmacies have great potential to be feasible settings for chlamydia testing. So far, little is known whether chlamydia knowledge or perceived facilitators and barriers impact students' intent to undertake pharmacy-based chlamydia testing.

Objectives: The objectives of this survey were to determine chlamydia knowledge in students, identify variables associated with intent to undertake pharmacy-based chlamydia testing using a logistic regression model and to determine the most frequently perceived facilitators and barriers to pharmacy based chlamydia testing.

Method: A questionnaire was designed for students from The University of Western Australia. The questionnaire contained sections regarding demographic, chlamydia knowledge, intent to undertake pharmacy-based chlamydia testing and some facilitators and barriers to pharmacy-based chlamydia testing. The survey was to be completed online and the active survey link was sent to all students enrolled at UWA. The results were collated and analysed.

Results: Females had a significantly higher mean knowledge score than males (6.33 vs. 5.78, $p < 0.001$) and were significantly more likely to give the correct answer to six of the eight chlamydia knowledge statements ($p < 0.001$). 74% of 2 289 surveyed students had a positive intent to undertake pharmacy-based chlamydia testing. Apart from a higher knowledge-score ($p < 0.001$) no demographic variable was significantly associated with this intent. "No need for an appointment" as well as "a pharmacy is easy to get to" were main facilitators and "embarrassment" as well as "a lack of privacy in a community pharmacy" were main barriers to pharmacy-based chlamydia testing.

Conclusion: The majority of surveyed students had a positive intent to undertake pharmacy-based chlamydia testing. A higher knowledge score and perceived facilitators and barriers seemed to impact students' intent to undertake pharmacy-based chlamydia testing.