

# **SUMMARY**

Chlamydia trachomatis is one of the sexually transmitted bacterial pathogens found throughout the world. It causes a variety of sexually transmitted diseases both in males and females.

This study was designed to detect the prevalence of Chlamydia trachomatis as a cause of non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU) in patients who presented at the Central STD clinic of the STD / AIDS control programme. Both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients were studied.

Urethral smears from 25 males and urethral and cervical smears from 25 females were processed. Chlamydiae was detected by the DFT and cell culture using cyclohexamide treated McCoy cells.

The sensitivity of the 2 methods were compared. The age, sex, marital status, presence or absence of symptoms in relation to detection of the organism were studied.

6 / 50 (12 %) of the patients were positive for Chlamydia trachomatis either by the DFT, tissue culture or by both. 3 of these were males and 3 were females. 5 / 75 (6.6 %) samples were positive by DFT and 2 / 75 (3.3 %) samples were positive by cell culture.

The male patients were in the 20 – 25, 26 – 30, and the > 40 year age groups. The female patients were in the < 17 year, and the 30 – 40 year age groups.

DFT was found to be a rapid and sensitive test for the detection of C. trachomatis. The cell culture although not so sensitive, is a useful test particularly in medico-legal issues. Also it preserves the specimens for additional studies like genotyping and antimicrobial sensitivity testing.

Further studies with larger study samples and in different populations to find the prevalence of C. trachomatis infection in Sri Lanka will be useful.