

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

MD (VENREOLOGY) EXAMINATION – MAY 2024

Date:- 13th May 2024

Time:- 1.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

PAPER I
STRUCTURED ESSAY QUESTIONS

Answer all five (05) questions.

Each question to be answered in a separate book.

1. Regarding HIV and pregnancy

- 1.1. When and how does vertical transmission occur and what are the most important risk factors? (50 marks)
- 1.2. How does antiretroviral therapy reduce vertical transmission? (30 marks)
- 1.3. What is the transmission risk from a mother with undetectable HIV RNA in plasma and how would you explain this? (20 marks)

2. The prevalence of chemsex among Sri Lankan youth is a growing concern.

- 2.1. Define chemsex and list the substances commonly used. (30 marks)
- 2.2. Describe how the practice of chemsex contributes to increased risk of HIV and sexually transmitted infection (STI) transmission. (35 marks)
- 2.3. Discuss the challenges of managing STD clinic attendees who engage in chemsex. (35 marks)

Contd.../2-

3. Given below is a part of an abstract presented on a research study conducted in Thailand.

Background: The risk of sexually transmitted infections (STI) arises when there is unsafe sexual activity. Unsafe sex often begins in the teenage years, and it will persist as long as there is the opportunity for risky sexual activity. The purpose of this study was to assess the sexual risk behaviours and related factors of sexually active adolescents in educational institutions in Thailand.

Methods: This was cross-sectional survey using an Internet-based application in schools in Bangkok from November 2020 to February 2021 with a total of 6,167 high school and vocational students. The schools were selected by simple random sampling among institutions, and the students were systematically randomly selected, with an equal number of males and females. We used multivariable logistic regression to analyze associations and control confounding variables. Indicators of risky sex include: (1) Not using a condom; (2) Having more than one sex partner; (3) Having sex in exchange for cash or in-kind compensation; and (4) Having sex without consent.

Results: Of a total of 872 sexually active participants, the mean age was 15.6 years, 66.9% were vocational students, 57.9% were female and 69.5% had sex risk behaviour. The multivariate logistic regression analysis identified the following factors related to risky sex: smokes cigarettes (AOR* = 1.79; 95% CI 1.12–2.88); uses cannabis (AOR = 2.84; 95% CI 1.23–6.56); gambles (AOR = 1.81; 95% CI 1.28–2.55); has sex with contraception (AOR = 0.36; 95% CI 0.25–0.34); has a history of childhood sex abuse (AOR = 1.60; 95% CI 1.03–2.56).

**Adjusted odds ratio*

- 3.1. Describe the precautions that should have been taken in this research to minimise selection bias. (30 marks)
- 3.2. Comment on the suitability of the data collection tool used in this research. (20 marks)
- 3.3. Interpret the results underlined. (25 marks)
- 3.4. State two (02) conclusions that can be derived from this study. (25 marks)

Contd.../3-

4. A 34-year-old woman was referred to STD clinic with recurrent attacks of itchiness and thick curd like vaginal discharge for about two years. She was repeatedly treated for vulvovaginal candidiasis.
- 4.1. Describe the important points that you would elaborate in the history and examination of this patient. (30 marks)
- 4.3. Describe four (04) important investigations you would order in this patient giving reasons. (30 marks)
- 4.4. Outline the management of this patient. (40 marks)
5. The National STD/AIDS Control Programme (NSACP) spearheads the national response for prevention and control of STI and HIV with several stakeholders. National response is guided by the National Strategic Plan (NSP) of Sri Lanka.
- 5.1. State the goal of the NSP for 2023-2027. (10 marks)
- 5.2. Health system strengthening (HSS) is one of the five strategies given in the NSP.
- 5.2.1. State five (05) strategic directions coming under HSS. (30 marks)
- 5.2.3. Describe the activities identified in three (03) of the above strategic directions. (60 marks)