

## SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

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**Introduction.** Infectious diseases, transmitted predominantly through sexual transmission (STD) are one of the most significant problems of our time. Their social significance is determined by high prevalence, severity of the consequences for the health of the sick, danger to the society and effect on reproduction. According to World Health Organization experts, every sixth inhabitant (about 1 billion people) of the globe suffers from a sexually transmitted disease. STD incidence rates remain high in most parts of the world, despite diagnostic and therapeutic advances that can rapidly render patients with many STD noninfectious and cure most of them.

**Aim.** To carry out an analytical review of STD impact on reproductive health and the most promising methods of their treatment

**Materials and methods.** Literature and Internet sources data analysis.

**Results and discussion.** Along with "classic" syphilis and gonorrhea, there are about 20 other diseases that can be transmitted sexually, such as trichomoniasis, ureaplasmosis, chlamydia, mycoplasmosis, genitourinary candidiasis, genital herpes, genital warts, genital contagious molluscum, hepatitis B, C, cytomegalovirus infection and others. Annually approximately 200 million patients with gonorrhea, 250 million with trichomoniasis, 200-250 million with chlamydia, etc. are registered all over the world. HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) infection is among the most dangerous diseases and it can also be transmitted sexually. HIV, having got into the human body, eventually destroys immune system cells and leads to the development of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Without treatment, these diseases can lead to major health problems such as sterility, permanent brain damage, heart disease, cancer, and even death. Most STDs affect both men and women, but in many cases the health problems they cause can be more severe in women. STDs in women also may be associated with cervical cancer. Human papillomavirus infection (HPV) can cause genital warts and cervical and other genital cancers. STDs can be passed from a mother to her baby before, during or immediately after birth. Some of these neonatal infections can be cured easily, but others may cause a permanent disability or even death of the newborn. Development and spread of drug-resistant bacteria (e.g., penicillin-resistant gonococci) make some STDs harder to cure.

**Conclusions.** Thus, uncontrolled STDs pose a direct threat to reproductive and sexual health of the nation, which requires the development and implementation of therapeutic and preventive measures and organizational measures to combat STDs.