

Lecture 14: “Prevalence of Sexually Transmitted infections among women in reproductive age”

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A previous study conducted in cooperation between the Ministry of Health and UNFPA on Trichomonas and Candida Albicans have shown that 10.6% of examined women were affected by one the two agents. Geographical distribution of positive cases was suggestive to a relation between work in Israel and acquiring an STI. Such findings have informed the epidemiology of STIs within the Palestinian community and have been instrumental for developing interventions in the area of prevention, early detection and treatment.

Based on WHO protocols and recommendations, a national comprehensive study on STI was conducted during 2008-2009 with support from UNFPA. The study examined urine and blood samples from 2200 married women in reproductive age attending RH services at MOH, UNRWA and NGO service delivery point. 7 sexually transmitted infections were screened within this study including herpes infections, hepatitis, HIV, Chlamydia and others.

Findings from this study are still preliminary, but have supported previously noted observations. The presentation on this topic will discuss the preliminary findings of STI study and will shed a light on the factors associated with observed patterns.