

Supplemental Digital Content 1 – Survey utilized in this study. The answers considered correct, where applicable, are marked in bold.

Syphilis Knowledge Survey

Purpose: The goal of this survey is to assess your knowledge of syphilis. All answers are anonymous.

Demographics and Medical Experience

What is your current level of training?

1. Medical student
2. Resident
3. Fellow
4. Attending
5. Other: _____

If you are a student/resident/fellow, what year are you? _____

If you are an attending, how many years have you practiced? _____

Are you board certified? YES NO

What is your field of practice?

1. Internal Medicine
2. Infectious Diseases (Adult)
3. Infectious Diseases (Pediatric)
4. Emergency Medicine
5. Pediatrics
6. OB/GYN
7. Medicine-Pediatrics
8. Family Medicine
9. Student
10. Other (please specify): _____

What percent of your time do you spend in the outpatient settings: _____

What percent of your time do you spend in the inpatient settings: _____

Please specify your age:

1. 24 years or younger
2. 25-34 years
3. 35-44 years
4. 45-54 years
5. 55-64 years
6. 65 years or older

Please specify your gender: _____

Please specify your race:

1. White
2. Black or African American
3. Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
4. Asian/Pacific Islander
5. Other: _____

Please specify your ethnicity:

1. Hispanic/Latino
2. Not Hispanic/Latino

Clinical Experience with Syphilis

Please provide your best estimate for each question below.

How many patients did you screen for syphilis for any reason in the past 12 months?

1. None
2. 1-10
3. 10-20
4. 30-50
5. 50-100
6. More than 100

How many syphilis patients have you treated or referred for treatment in the past 12 months?

1. 0
2. 1
3. 2-3
4. 4-5
5. 6-10
6. More than 10

How would you describe your amount of clinical experience diagnosing and treating patients with syphilis?

1. None
2. Very inexperienced
3. Somewhat inexperienced
4. Somewhat experienced
5. Very experienced

How adequate do you feel your training regarding syphilis has been in preparing you for your clinical experience?

1. Very inadequate
2. Somewhat inadequate
3. Somewhat adequate
4. Very adequate

Epidemiology

The number of annual cases of primary and secondary syphilis in the United States has remained stable from 2005-2015.

- 1. True
- 2. False**
- 3. Don't know

Of all primary and secondary cases of syphilis in the United States, males and females account for approximately the same number of cases per year.

- 1. True
- 2. False**
- 3. Don't know

African American/Blacks have the highest rates of syphilis in the United States compared to other racial or ethnic populations.

- 1. True**
- 2. False
- 3. Don't know

Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men account for approximately half of all new primary and secondary syphilis cases in the United States each year.

- 1. True
- 2. False**
- 3. Don't know

Over half of all new primary and secondary syphilis cases occur among HIV positive individuals.

- 1. True
- 2. False**
- 3. Don't know

Transmission

Syphilis is rarely transmitted by oral sex.

- 1. True
- 2. False**
- 3. Don't know

Syphilis is not transmissible via intravenous drug use or contaminated blood.

- 1. True
- 2. False**
- 3. Don't know

A developing fetus can be infected transplacentally at any stage of syphilis.

- 1. True**
- 2. False
- 3. Don't know

The median time from transmission to onset of symptoms of primary syphilis is one week.

1. True
- 2. False**
3. Don't know

A patient with late latent syphilis is not considered to be contagious.

- 1. True**
2. False
3. Don't know

Clinical features

Primary syphilis classically involves a painful ulcer.

1. True
- 2. False**
3. Don't know

A rash is the most common symptom of secondary syphilis.

- 1. True**
2. False
3. Don't know

Syphilis commonly involves the central nervous system during primary and secondary stages of the disease.

- 1. True**
2. False
3. Don't know

Without treatment, half of people infected will develop tertiary disease.

1. True
- 2. False**
3. Don't know

Tabes dorsalis, or posterior column and posterior root spinal cord disease, is the most common manifestation of neurosyphilis.

1. True
- 2. False**
3. Don't know

Diagnosis

Treponemal-specific antibody testing (e.g. FTA, TP-PA) is the classic initial test to diagnose syphilis.

1. True
- 2. False**
3. Don't know

Almost all patients with primary syphilis will have a positive syphilis screening test.

1. True
- 2. False**
3. Don't know

Non-treponemal tests remain elevated through all stages of syphilis (e.g. RPR, VDRL).

1. True
- 2. False**
3. Don't know

Pregnancy can cause a false positive non-treponemal test (e.g. RPR, VDRL).

- 1. True**
2. False
3. Don't know

The initial screening test for syphilis can involve either a treponemal or non-treponemal test.

- 1. True**
2. False
3. Don't know

Treatment

Secondary syphilis is treated with intramuscular Benzathine penicillin G for three doses at weekly intervals.

1. True
- 2. False**
3. Don't know

Late latent syphilis is treated with intravenous penicillin G for 10-14 days.

1. True
- 2. False**
3. Don't know

Ciprofloxacin is a second-line agent for the treatment of syphilis.

1. True
- 2. False**
3. Don't know

Successful treatment of syphilis is measured by a decline in non-treponemal antibody titers.

- 1. True**
2. False
3. Don't know

The Jarisch-Herxheimer reaction following treatment of syphilis is a severe, life-threatening anaphylactic reaction to penicillin.

1. True
- 2. False**

3. Don't know

Reverse Sequence Algorithm

How familiar are you with the “reverse sequence” syphilis screening algorithm?

1. Never heard of it
2. Somewhat familiar
3. Familiar
4. Very familiar

Have you ever used the reverse sequence syphilis screening algorithm in clinical practice?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Unsure

The reverse sequence algorithm utilizes which of the following as the first step in screening?

1. TP-PA/FTA-ABS
- 2. EIA/CIA**
3. RPR
4. Darkfield microscopy
5. Don't know

If an initial test in the reverse sequence algorithm is positive, the next test performed should be:

1. TP-PA/FTA-ABS
2. EIA/CIA
- 3. RPR**
4. Darkfield microscopy
5. Don't know

In the reverse sequence algorithm, a patient with a positive initial syphilis test and a second negative test should:

1. Have no further testing
2. Check a RPR
3. Check an EIA/CIA
- 4. Check a TP-PA/FTA-ABS**
5. Don't know