



NR578 Standardized Procedure Worksheet

Name:

Carefully read the assignment guidelines and rubric and complete each section of the worksheet below.

1. Definition

a. Disease or condition

Neisseria Gonorrhoea – A sexually transmitted infection (Springer, 2023).

b. Pathophysiology

The infection adheres to epithelial cells and continues with cellular invasion (Springer, 2023). It creates a localized infection found primarily in the urethra, cervix, pharynx, and anus of sexually active adults (Springer, 2023). It can also be found in the eye conjunctiva or pharynx of newborns whose mothers are infected (Springer, 2023). The gonococci possess pili, which are hair-like appendages, that allow the bacteria to attach to the epithelial cells from a distance and use them to move closer into the epithelial cells. These gonococci have surface proteins that include lipooligosaccharide which is able to attach to sperm cells (Springer, 2023). This ability to attach to sperm causes researchers to hypothesize the increased likelihood of transmission from infected males to uninfected females (Springer, 2023).

c. Incidence and prevalence

The CDC's 2023 report on Gonorrhoea revealed an incidence of 710,151 new cases reported in the year 2021 (CDC, 2023). This is a 118% increase since 2009 when incidence was at a record low (CDC, 2023). There was a 4.3% increase in incidence from the year 2020 to 2021 which included a 6.3% increase in cases in men and a 2.4% increase in cases in women (CDC, 2023). The pandemic lockdown also played a role in the years 2019 and 2020 with initially a decrease in weekly reported cases in the earlier part of 2020 in comparison to the earlier part of 2019, but then saw an increase in the later part of 2020 in comparison to the later part of 2019 (CDC, 2023).

2. Assessment

a. Symptoms

Gonorrhoea can be asymptomatic, especially in women with more than 50% of females presenting asymptotically (Sena & Cohen, 2023). However, over 90% of infected males will manifest symptoms. Symptoms of Gonorrhoea in women include painful



burning when peeing, tender abdomen or groin, increased vaginal discharge, irregular vaginal bleeding (Sena & Cohen, 2023). Symptoms of gonorrhea in men can include burning when urinating, discharge from the tip of the penis (green, yellow, white), and painful or swollen testicles (Sena & Cohen, 2023). Symptoms of a rectal infection for both males and females include discharge from the rectum, itching, soreness, bleeding, and pain with bowel movements. Physical assessment can include a thorough integumentary and mucosal visual assessment, abdominal palpation, lymph node palpation, and genital or rectal inspection if applicable and appropriate (CDC, 2022).

c. Intended state of practice and circumstances that require physician consultation, if indicated

I will be practicing in the state of Florida. I will be working under the supervision of a physician for the first 3000 hours of my primary care practice (Florida Board of Nursing, 2023). After my 3000 hours of primary care under supervision has been completed, I will be eligible to practice autonomously in the primary care setting (Florida Board of Nursing, 2023). In either situation, I am able to diagnose and treat persons infected with gonorrhea without physician consultation (Florida Board of Nursing, 2023). In the case of further complications such as a complicated infection in a pregnant person, I could refer to OBGYN if I felt uncomfortable.

3. Diagnostic tests

a. Testing

Gonorrhea must be confirmed by lab testing (Sena & Cohen, 2023). The test can either be a direct swab of the infected area, or a clean catch urine sample. While there are multiple methods of testing for gonorrhea, the most accurate and sensitive are culture and nucleic acid amplification technologies (NAATs) (Sena & Cohen, 2023). Antibody testing is also available however not recommended due to low sensitivity and specificity (Sena & Cohen, 2023).

b. Expected results

Expected results of gonorrhea testing will either be positive or negative (Sena & Cohen, 2023).

4. Management

a. First-line medications