Revised NHG guideline for STD consultations

In addition to urethritis, the revised guideline for STD consultations published by the Dutch College of General Practitioners (NHG) also includes epididymitis and proctitis as manifestations of STDs. As a result, GPs may be more readily inclined to consider an STD as the cause of a patient’s complaints, which may reduce rates of underdiagnosis and undertreatment. Another new feature is the two approaches to treatment: complaint-based and disorder-based. This makes it easier for a GP to determine the management at a time when culture results are not yet available. The guideline assumes that a single dose of azithromycin will improve therapy compliance by patients with a Chlamydia trachomatis infection, although this is not a clinical outcome measure. The antimicrobial management for gonorrhoea has been altered because of resistance problems. However, there have been no published randomised trials studying the efficacy of the cephalosporins available in the Netherlands for the treatment of gonorrhoea since the emergence of this resistance. The change in antimicrobial management for gonorrhoea also has consequences for the management of pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), which is one of the reasons why an addendum to the NHG guideline on PID was published in December 2013.

References*

*The literature refers to the Dutch text*