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Spread Awareness about Syphilis among People

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Dear Editor,

A one year study was done by us from October 2016 to October 2017. A total of 121253 (One lakh twenty one thousand two hundred and fifty three) samples were tested by RPR (Span, ARKRAY Healthcare Pvt. Ltd.) and Syphilis rapid test strip (ASPEN[®] Syphilis), out of which 1058 (One thousand fifty eight) were pregnant mother's samples (Figure 1). A total of 4 (four) patients were found positive out of this four 2 (two) were pregnant mothers, one was adult male and one infant (male baby) who had congenital syphilis. All the positive patients were referred to Suraksha Clinic (NACO) for further treatment.

The congenital syphilis positive infant developed rash, cold, fever, after 3 (three) days of his birth. It was observed that the mother of the baby was advised for testing by treating gynecologist during pregnancy but due to lack of awareness she came to test just before the date of delivery.

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by the spirochete *Treponema pallidum* [1]. It is transmitted from mother to child too. The primary incubation of this disease is 10-90 days from the date of exposure and secondary incubation period is 4-10 weeks after appearance of chancre [2]. In Brazil a total of 24448 (twenty four thousand four hundred forty eight) congenital syphilis positive cases were reported during the period 1998 to 2004, which was published by Avelleira JCR and Bottino G in their article Syphilis: Diagnosis, treatment and control in 2006. In 2008 CDC reported 10.1 cases of congenital syphilis out of 100,000 live births [3]. This shows the importance of congenital syphilis. In our study the infant positive for congenital syphilis was referred from Suraksha Clinic to GMCH as it was a critical case.

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To control the disease people must follow healthy behavior already recommended by scientists [4]. For which people must be aware about the transmission, prevention and control of the disease. NGOs, media, teachers, health workers, government and social activities must play an important role to bring awareness to people at the grass root level. In our study out of four positive patients three were infected by sexual route. During our counselling it was found that all three patients were unaware about STDs specially syphilis. They were informed in detail by us during the time of counseling not only about syphilis but also other STDs which include HIV, HBV, gonorrhea etc.

Conflict of interest: Nil

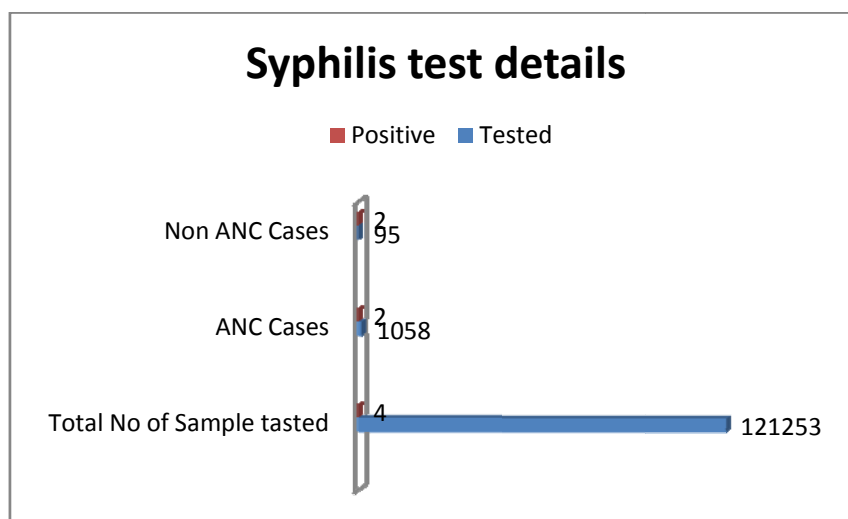


Figure 1: Sample tested details

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