

# Self-taken vaginal swabs and gonorrhoea detection

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		<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Registration date</b> 24/06/2010	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 13/08/2014	<b>Condition category</b> Infections and Infestations	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

Chlamydia and gonorrhoea are common sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the UK. Infected women often have no symptoms, but without treatment they can become infertile. Finding these unrecognised infections is therefore important. For gonorrhoea, the standard test is to attempt to grow the bacteria in a laboratory. An instrument called a speculum is gently inserted into the vagina to hold the walls of the vagina open so that the neck of the womb is visible. A small brush-like instrument will be used to take some cells from the neck of the womb. Special storage and transport are needed to ensure the samples arrive promptly and safely at the laboratory.

The nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) method, currently used to detect chlamydia, is now able to detect gonorrhoea on the same sample. It is a test that can be done on non-invasive samples i.e. urine and self-taken vaginal swabs.

Women prefer these tests and special storage or transport arrangements are not needed. If the NAATs gonorrhoea test was as good as the current standard gonorrhoea test, women with no symptoms could be tested for both chlamydia and gonorrhoea without needing to have an examination. We therefore plan to compare the NAATs gonorrhoea test with the standard gonorrhoea test. The NAATs test we plan to use is FDA cleared and CE Marked for use on all the swabs we plan to take.

### Who can participate?

Women attending our clinic for STI tests.

### What does the study involve?

We will invite women attending our clinic for STI tests to do a self-taken vaginal swab in addition to the standard tests we perform when we examine them. Performing a self-taken vaginal swab has no side effects and has previously been found to be easy and acceptable. We will then be able to evaluate the effectiveness of the self-taken vaginal swab for detecting gonorrhoea in comparison with the standard cultures.

### What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

The possible benefits are that you will be having an additional sample taken for gonorrhoea and chlamydia testing and it is known that the more samples that are performed, the better the

detection rate of any infection that is present. There are no known risks of participating in the study.

Where is the study run from?

The study is taking place at the Centre for Sexual Health at the Leeds General Infirmary.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

The study will be starting in early 2009 and is expected to run for up to one year.

Who is funding the study?

The extra swabs and tests will be funded by Gen-Probe, who are the manufacturers.

Who is the main contact?

The main contact for the study is Dr Janet Wilson at the Centre for Sexual Health at the Leeds General Infirmary.

## Contact information

### Type(s)

Scientific

### Contact name

Dr Janet Wilson

### Contact details

Department of Genito-Urinary Medicine  
Sunnybank Wing  
Leeds General Infirmary  
Leeds  
United Kingdom  
LS1 3EX

## Additional identifiers

### Protocol serial number

7293

## Study information

### Scientific Title

Comparison of self-taken vaginal swabs versus clinician taken urethral and endocervical swabs for the detection of gonorrhoea using the Gen-Probe Aptima Combo 2 assay

### Study objectives

This is a prospective cohort study to compare self-taken vaginal swabs for the detection of gonorrhoea using the Gen-Probe Aptima Combo 2 assay versus clinician taken urethral and endocervical swabs for the detection of gonorrhoea by standard culture. Furthermore, we will assess the cost effectiveness of the different methods of detecting gonorrhoea.

### Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

### **Ethics approval(s)**

Leeds (East) Research Ethics Committee approved on the 3rd February 2009 (ref: 09/H1306/4)

### **Study design**

Single centre randomised interventional screening trial

### **Primary study design**

Interventional

### **Study type(s)**

Screening

### **Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Topic: Infection; Subtopic: Infection (all Subtopics); Disease: Infectious diseases and microbiology

### **Interventions**

A self taken vulvo-vaginal swab analysed for gonorrhoea by the Aptima Combo 2 assay, followed by clinician taken urethral and endocervical samples analysed for gonorrhoea by culture then an endocervical sample analysed for gonorrhoea by the Aptima Combo 2 assay. All positive Aptima Combo 2 assays for gonorrhoea will be confirmed using the Aptima GC assay.

The cost of each procedure will be assessed including the cost of the test and staff time.

### **Intervention Type**

Other

### **Phase**

Not Applicable

### **Primary outcome(s)**

Sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive values of the Gen-Probe Aptima Combo 2 assay for the detection of gonorrhoea using self-taken vaginal swabs compared with clinician taken urethral and endocervical swabs for the detection of gonorrhoea by standard culture.

### **Key secondary outcome(s)**

Sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive values of self-taken vaginal swabs compared with clinician taken endocervical swabs for the detection of gonorrhoea using the Gen-Probe Aptima Combo 2 assay.

### **Completion date**

31/01/2010

## **Eligibility**

### **Key inclusion criteria**

1. Women aged 16 years and over
2. Presenting for a new or re-registration visit
3. Wish to be tested for both chlamydia and gonorrhoea
4. Give consent

**Participant type(s)**

Patient

**Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

**Age group**

Adult

**Lower age limit**

16 years

**Sex**

Female

**Key exclusion criteria**

1. Women who are unwilling or unable to give verbal consent
2. Women who have taken antibiotics in the previous 28 days

**Date of first enrolment**

01/03/2009

**Date of final enrolment**

31/01/2010

**Locations****Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

**Study participating centre**

Department of Genito-Urinary Medicine

Leeds

United Kingdom

LS1 3EX

**Sponsor information**

## Organisation

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (UK)

## ROR

<https://ror.org/00v4dac24>

## Funder(s)

### Funder type

Industry

### Funder Name

Gen-Probe Inc. (USA)

## Results and Publications

### Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

### IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

### Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Results article</a>	results	12/12/2012		Yes	No
<a href="#">Results article</a>	results	01/09/2014		Yes	No
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes