

How painful is a urethral swab?

Submission date 27/11/2009	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered
Registration date 27/01/2010	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Last Edited 04/07/2011	Condition category Urological and Genital Diseases	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Not provided at time of registration

Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

Contact name

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Contact details

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

RD-5103-012-07

Study information

Scientific Title

How painful is a urethral swab? A single centre, randomised controlled trial.

Study objectives

To investigate the intensity of the discomfort felt during the insertion of the first urethral swab, when different swab types are used.

1. To determine if there is any difference in the discomfort felt during the insertion of the first of three urethral swabs using different types.
2. To investigate the intensity of the discomfort felt during the insertion of the second and the third urethral swab using different types.
3. To determine if there is an association between particular healthcare workers (HCW) and the discomfort experienced during a urethral swab procedure.
4. To assess if previous experience of swab taking in the patient has an effect on the perception of discomfort felt during the procedure.
5. To assess if urethral inflammation affects the discomfort felt during the procedure.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Derbyshire Research Ethics Committee (REC) approved on the 3rd of March 2008 (ref: 07/H0401/158)

Study design

Single centre randomised controlled trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Diagnostic

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Genito-urinary medicine

Interventions

Following informed consent, participants will be randomised to receive one of the following types of swab first:

1. To have a gonorrhoea Dacron tipped swab first
2. To have a chlamydia Rayon tipped swab first
3. To have a plastic urethral loop swab first

All patients will have the other 2 types of swab taken as routine practice in an order pre-specified by the pre-randomised envelopes.

Participants will be given a short questionnaire to complete before the first swab is taken for investigations.

Participants will be given a numerical rating scale to measure intensity of discomfort felt after each of the 3 swabs have been taken.

All three swabs are routinely taken in clinics in accordance with manufacturers instructions.

The duration of the study will be 6 months

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Applicable

Primary outcome(s)

The discomfort felt during urethral swab procedure after the first of 3 different swab types are used, will be assessed using the Visual Analogue Scale (0-100mm)

Key secondary outcome(s)

1. The discomfort during the procedure using each of the other two types of swab using the Visual Analogue Scale (0-100mm) will be assessed.
2. Data on presence and severity of urethral symptoms prior to swab taking will be collected using the Data Collection form.
3. Data will also be collected on the identity of the HCW taking the swab and the presence of epithelial cells (a marker of an adequately taken swab) and polymorphonuclear cells (a marker of inflammation) in the specimen and voided urine after swabs.

Completion date

19/11/2008

Eligibility**Key inclusion criteria**

All male patients over 16 attending the Genito-Urinary clinic during the study period and having swab tests will be invited to participate in the study.

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Sex

Male

Key exclusion criteria

1. Subjects who have passed urine within 2 hours of planned procedure (swab)
2. Subjects who have taken analgesics, anti-depressants or anti-epileptic drugs in the previous 24 hours

Date of first enrolment

19/05/2008

Date of final enrolment

19/11/2008

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre
Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Derby
United Kingdom
DE1 2QY

Sponsor information

Organisation
Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UK)

Funder(s)

Funder type
Hospital/treatment centre

Funder Name
Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UK)

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?
Results article	results	01/03/2011		Yes	No
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes