URINARY TRACT INFECTION vs SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION

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BACKGROUND:

Urinary tract infection (UTI) and Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) are common pathologies whose symptomatology often overlaps complicating a correct diagnosis. The present work is an observational study about the relation between urine cultures tests and STI tests in genital or urine samples.

METHODS

The period of study was from January to December of 2017 in a laboratory in Catalonia (Spain).

A total of 71664 of urine cultures (UC) were processed. Based on pathologic urinalysis or clinical criteria, urine was cultured on chromID CPS Elite (bioMérieux) and was incubated 24-48h, 37°C.

Genital samples (urethral, endocervical or vaginal swabs) were tested to detect STI using a real time PCR (Anyplex II STI-7, Seegene) which detects seven microorganisms: *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT), *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (NG), *Mycoplasma genitalium* (MG), *Mycoplasma hominis* (MH), *Ureaplasma urealyticum* (UU), *Ureaplasma parvum* (UP), and *Trichomonas vaginalis* (TV).

Only CT, NG, MG and TV were reported as STI.

RESULTS

A total of 71664 of urine cultures were processed. Of them, 43425 (61%) were negative.
103 (0,14%) have a complementary STI test in genital sample.
Results are shown in graph 1 and graph 2.

103 both tests

Graph 1. Number of positive UC or STI test

Total of STI pathogens = 29

Graph 2. Distribution of STI pathogens

CONCLUSIONS

Urine culture is the main bacteriologic test in clinical microbiology laboratories, but more than 50% of them are negative. UTI seems to be an overdiagnosed pathology that may be hiding a STI. In fact, symptomatology is related and urethral syndrome usually shows pyuria with negative urine culture. Is important that clinicians keep this in mind for patients in risk of STI or urethritis to make a correct diagnose, improve antibiotic therapy and prevent STI transmission