

ABSTRACT

There is a relationship between sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. The incidences of sexually transmitted diseases now sexually transmitted infection (STI) is spiraling even though we know that they are preventable, controllable and curable. Somewhere we have failed to tackle this problem in its right perspective. Diagnosis, treatment and occasional case finding and imparting information about sexually transmitted infection (STI) were considered as management and control. It seems to be that the root causes have been missed and these are deeply rooted in the community. Unless these deep rooted factors have been tackled then these STIs are bound to exist and multiply with cumulative effect on the community and indirectly on the individual.

Since STIs and HIV/AIDS are behavioural diseases, and persons who have contracted STIs especially more than once are at risk of acquiring and transmitting HIV; measures to detect early and to treat or prevent are crucial in the control of HIV/AIDS.

This study therefore aimed to determine the level of HIV/STI screening that is done, and subsequent referral for further counselling and management by a specialist, among clients attending the primary care centre at August Town – Hermitage Health Centre, Mona Campus during the period January – December 2001. Among the subjects studied were (204) two hundred and four clients who attended the clinic during that period. Of those clients 72 were screened. 81%(59) were tested positive,

12.5%(9) were negative and 5%(4) did not have results available. This showed that there was no difficulty in receiving results when screening is done. The pattern of screening done by physicians was the same but there is a difference in percentage screened. Thirty-eight percent (76) were done by one physician and 28.1%(57) by another.

The study reveals clearly that level of screening in this primary care centre is very low and needs to be improved if early detection and treatment of sexually transmitted infections will lower the risk of HIV.