Trimethoprim sulphonamide in the treatment of chancroid. Comparison of two single dose treatment regimens with a five day regimen

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Date: 1985-07

Abstract:

In a prospective blinded study, 135 men with genital ulcers culture positive for Haemophilus ducreyi, were randomized to one of three regimens. Two single dose regimens, either the combination of sulphonamide 3200 mg/trimethoprim 640 mg or trimethoprim 700 mg alone were compared to a five day regimen of sulphonamide 800 mg/trimethoprim 160 mg twice daily. All 31 treated with a five day regimen of trimethoprim sulphonamide healed without further treatment. Of 27 patients treated with the single dose sulphonamide/trimethoprim regimen, only 21 were cured and of 34 treated with trimethoprim alone, 25 responded. Antibacterial susceptibilities were performed on 31 H. ducreyi isolates. The laboratory susceptibility of these strains to trimethoprim correlated with the clinical response to the single agent. Trimethoprim alone in a dose of 700 mg or the combination of sulphonamide (3200 mg) and trimethoprim (640 mg) is not satisfactory for the single dose treatment of genital ulcer disease. However, when prescribed for five days, sulphonamide/trimethoprim is effective and compares favourably with other treatment regimens.