



## CARTA CIENTÍFICO-CLÍNICA

# [Translated article] Comparative Study of Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Management of Venereal Infection: Different Periodic Screenings, Therapeutic Approaches, and Follow-up Care After Treatment Across the CDC, IUSTI and BASHH Guidelines on the Most Frequent STIs

## Estudio comparativo de las guías de manejo de infecciones venéreas: diferencias en periodicidad de cribado, abordaje terapéutico y control postratamiento entre las guías CDC, IUSTI y BASHH en las ITS más frecuentes

*To the Editor,*

Although, currently, venereology is a fundamental area of knowledge for dermatovenereologists, we know that, in many Spanish outpatient dermatology services (excluding emergency departments in our specialty), these are generally uncommon reasons for consultation.<sup>1</sup> And this is so despite living in a time of an unstoppable increase in venereal or sexually transmitted infections (STIs) of mandatory reporting,<sup>2</sup> where specialized centers, ERs, primary care, and some infectious disease services are practically taking over all patients with or at risk of such infections.

Although, overall, dermatovenereology services tend to follow specific protocols, not all follow the same criteria, which may lead to some variability in clinical practice.

In this article, we aim to review the different clinical guidelines regarding screening frequency, treatment, and the need for follow-up after treatment (or test of cure [TOC]) for the most common and relevant infections. We will focus on the 3 most relevant guidelines, those drafted

by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI), and the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH).

**Table 1** illustrates the screening recommendations and their frequency if needed. Unlike the IUSTI and CDC guidelines, the BASHH ones do not specify them individually for each infectious agent but rather indicate a series of risk factors and situations in which screening is advised. The CDC recommendations focus on the level of detail in the recommendations, including detailed inclusion based on sex and gender diversities and considering screening for HPV and trichomoniasis.

**Table 2** shows the treatments recommended by the guidelines. Motivated by keeping a practical approach and to achieve a reasonably concise table, we have not included treatments proposed in special situations, children, or pregnant women or active ingredients currently not marketed in Spain (such as josamycin, probenecid, or tetracycline), which only affects the absence of a third-line option in chlamydia treatment according to IUSTI (josamycin). However, alternatives are kept in all lines and guidelines. Similarly, we have not included chancroid and donovanosis, as they are uncommon in our setting and have a clear reference in the IUSTI guidelines without evident changes in other guidelines.

Several differences stand out in this table. First, in the therapeutic management of chlamydia. Second, in the management of gonorrhea: despite there is consensus that ceftriaxone is the first-line therapy, discrepancies abound surrounding dosage and the suitability of combination therapy. Therefore, the IUSTI guidelines recommend ceftriaxone monotherapy only if ceftriaxone resistance is ruled out, and if the patient can undergo follow-up after treatment. Furthermore, since single-dose azithromycin treatment has been associated with the development of antimicrobial resistance—mainly of *Mycoplasma genitalium* but also in gonococcus—neither combination therapy with this drug nor monotherapy for chlamydia or gonorrhea seems appropriate. Therefore, the BASHH guidelines even consider using ciprofloxacin as first-line therapy if susceptibility has been confirmed. Third, the fact that clindamycin vaginal ovules are only recommended by the CDC as a second-line alternative treatment, considering its frequent use in our setting in cases of bacterial vaginosis.

DOI of original article:  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ad.2024.02.010>

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ad.2024.04.018>

0001-7310/© 2024 AEDV. Published by Elsevier España, S.L.U. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

**Table 1** Screening recommendations in asymptomatic individuals and their frequency according to different guidelines.

Infection	CDC <sup>3</sup>	IUSTI <sup>4-6</sup>	BASHH <sup>7-12</sup>
Chlamydia	<p><b>Cisgender women:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- &lt; 25 years: annually</li> <li>- 25 years in the presence of risk factors.<sup>a</sup></li> <li>- 3 months after being treated for a STI.</li> <li>- Rectal screening based on sexual behavior.</li> </ul> <p><b>Men who have sex with men (MSM):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual at exposed sites (urethra, rectum, pharynx).</li> <li>- Every 3-6 months in the presence of high risk.<sup>b</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Men who have sex with women (MSW):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider screening for young men in high-prevalence clinical settings.<sup>c</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Transgender individuals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Screening should be adapted to anatomy (e.g., annual routine screening for cisgender women &lt; 25 years should be extended to all transgender men with a cervix).</li> <li>- Consider rectal screening based on risk behaviors and exposure.</li> </ul> <p><b>People living with HIV:</b> annual.</p> <p><b>Pregnant individuals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All &lt; 25 years</li> <li>- 25 years or older: if there is an increased risk.<sup>a</sup></li> </ul> <p>Retest women &lt; 25 years old or with risk factors during the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester<sup>a</sup></p>	<p><b>Patients with known risk factors:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Any individual with a new monogamous sexual partner: at the beginning of the relationship.</li> <li>- Sexually active individuals: annually and after each change of partner (maximum frequency every 3 months).</li> <li>- *STI screening every 3 months is justified in sexually active individuals at a high risk of STIs:</li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Users of pre-exposure prophylaxis vs HIV (PrEP).</li> <li>- &gt; 10 partners over the past 12 months.</li> <li>- Multiple or anonymous partners since the last screening.</li> <li>- Sexualized drug use including chemsex.</li> <li>- 1 year after diagnosis of a bacterial STI.</li> </ul> <p><b>MSM:</b></p> <p>Testing is recommended for all 3 exposed locations of sexual activity (urethral, pharyngeal, and rectal).</p> <p><b>Individuals with a vulva:</b></p> <p>Routine screening in the pharynx and rectum is not recommended.</p> </ul>	<p><b>Patients with known risk factors:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Any individual with a new monogamous sexual partner: at the beginning of the relationship.</li> <li>- Sexually active individuals: annually and after each change of partner (maximum frequency every 3 months).</li> <li>- *STI screening every 3 months is justified in sexually active individuals at a high risk of STIs:</li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Users of pre-exposure prophylaxis vs HIV (PrEP).</li> <li>- &gt; 10 partners over the past 12 months.</li> <li>- Multiple or anonymous partners since the last screening.</li> <li>- Sexualized drug use including chemsex.</li> <li>- 1 year after diagnosis of a bacterial STI.</li> </ul> <p><b>MSM:</b></p> <p>Testing is recommended for all 3 exposed locations of sexual activity (urethral, pharyngeal, and rectal).</p> <p><b>Individuals with a vulva:</b></p> <p>Routine screening in the pharynx and rectum is not recommended.</p> </ul>
Gonorrhea	(Similar to upper cell, with the only difference of recommending pharyngeal screening based on sexual behavior for cisgender women).	(Similar to upper cell).	(Similar to upper cell).
Syphilis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Individuals with risk factors.</i><sup>a</sup></li> <li>- <i>Pregnant individuals.</i></li> <li>- <i>MSM:</i> annually or every 3-6 months in the presence of risk factors.<sup>a</sup></li> <li>- <i>People living with HIV:</i> annually.</li> </ul>	<p><i>In any patient who presents with symptoms or risk of venereal infections.</i></p>	(Similar to upper cell).
HIV	<p><i>People aged 13-64:</i> at least once in a lifetime.</p> <p>In any patient who presents with symptoms or risk of venereal infections.</p> <p><i>Pregnant individuals.</i></p> <p><b>MSM:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual if sexually active, if serological status is unknown or negative, and the patient or his partner has &gt; 1 sexual contact since their last HIV serology.</li> <li>- Consider screening every 3-6 months in the presence of high-risk factors for acquiring HIV infection.</li> </ul> <p><i>Transgender individuals:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discuss and offer screening to all transgender individuals. The frequency should be based on the level of risk.</li> </ul>	<p><i>In every patient who seeks consultation due to symptoms or risk of venereal infections.</i></p>	<p><i>In every patient who seeks consultation due to symptoms or risk of venereal infections.</i></p>

**Table 1** (Continued)

Infection	CDC <sup>3</sup>	IUSTI <sup>4–6</sup>	BASHH <sup>7–12</sup>
Herpes simplex virus (HSV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Asymptomatic or serodiscordant partners of individuals with a history of genital herpes.</li> <li>* Serology for typing of HSV type can be considered in:</li> <li>- Women presenting for evaluation of STIs (especially women with multiple sexual partners).</li> <li>- MSM with a previous history of undiagnosed genital infection if serological status is unknown.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Asymptomatic pregnant individuals with partners who have a history of genital herpes.</i></p>	Unspecified.
Trichomoniasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider screening for asymptomatic women with risk factors,<sup>a</sup> and/or receiving care in <i>high prevalence settings</i>.<sup>c</sup></li> </ul>	(Not considered).	(Not specified).
Human papillomavirus (HPV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Women and individuals with a cervix aged 21–29 years</i>: every 3 years with cytology.</li> <li>- <i>Women and individuals with a cervix aged 30–65 years</i>: every 3 years with cytology, or every 5 years with a combination of cytology and HPV testing.</li> <li>- <i>MSM</i>: digital anorectal examination.</li> </ul>	(Not considered).	(Not specified).

<sup>a</sup> Risk factors: individuals with a new sexual partner, more than one sexual partner, a sexual partner who has sex with other partners, or a sexual partner with a venereal infection. Risk factors also include inconsistent condom use in a non-mutually monogamous partnership; history or current presence of STIs; history of transactional sex (i.e., for drugs or money); history of stay in a correctional facility.

<sup>b</sup> MSM receiving pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) treatment, people living with HIV, or if they or their partners have relationships with multiple sexual partners.

<sup>c</sup> Centers serving adolescents, correctional facilities, specialized clinics for venereal infections, and/or sexual and reproductive health.  
Note: BASHH does not specify individualized screening recommendations by infectious agent.

**Table 3** summarizes the TOC recommendations made for the infections where it is recommended. Some differences in criteria can be seen among the 3 guidelines. Practically, we consider it most useful in our setting (if confirmation of lymphogranuloma venereum variant is not possible) to perform TOC in cases of rectal chlamydia infection treated with a 1-week single-dose regimen of azithromycin or doxycycline. Similarly, although it is not a TOC *per se*, the table includes the periodicity of the recommended follow-ups after the diagnosis of syphilis following the reviewer's suggestion.

We believe this article (and its tables) is useful for the daily management of venereal disease, as it allows for quick consultation of the guidelines applicable in our setting while highlighting the discrepancies found in some recommendations. Although we understand that guidelines must stick to the epidemiological characteristics of the geographic area in which they are issued, and that the extrapolation of any of the 3 to our setting seems reasonable, venereologists must apply them critically and individually to the specific situation of our center and municipality.

**Table 2** Treatments for various venereal infections according to clinical guidelines.

Infection	CDC <sup>3</sup>	IUSTI <sup>4–6</sup>	BASHH <sup>7–12</sup>
Chlamydia infection	<p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Doxycycline 100 mg/oral/12 h for 7 days.</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Azithromycin 1 g/oral/single dose.</li> </ul> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Levofloxacin 500 mg/oral/daily for 7 days.</li> </ul>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Doxycycline 100 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 7 days.</li> <li>- Azithromycin 1 g/orally/single dose (2<sup>nd</sup> line if rectal infection).</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Azithromycin 1 g/orally/single dose for rectal infection.</li> <li>- Erythromycin 500 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 7 days.</li> <li>- Levofloxacin 500 mg/orally/once daily for 7 days.</li> <li>- Ofloxacin 200 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 7 days.</li> </ul>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Doxycycline 100 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 7 days.</li> <li>- Azithromycin 1 g/orally on the first day followed by 500 mg/orally daily for the next 2 days.</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Erythromycin 500 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 7 days.</li> <li>- Ofloxacin 200 mg/orally/every 12 hours (or 400 mg/orally/once daily) for 7 days.</li> </ul>

Table 2 (Continued)

Infection	CDC <sup>3</sup>	IUSTI <sup>4-6</sup>	BASHH <sup>7-12</sup>
Lymphogranuloma venereum	- Doxycycline 100 mg/oral/12 h for 21 days.	<p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Doxycycline 100 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 21 days.</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Azithromycin 1 g/orally/weekly for 3 weeks.</li> <li>- Erythromycin 400 mg/orally/every 6 hours for 21 days.</li> </ul> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Moxifloxacin 400 mg/orally/once daily for 21 days.</li> <li>- Minocycline 300 mg/orally initial dose, followed by 200 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 21 days.</li> <li>- Rifampicin 600 mg/orally/once daily for 21 days.</li> </ul>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Doxycycline 100 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 21 days.</li> <li>- Minocycline 300 mg/orally initial dose, followed by 200 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 21 days.</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Erythromycin 500 mg/orally/every 6 hours for 21 days.</li> <li>- Azithromycin 1 g/orally/single dose weekly for 3 weeks.</li> </ul> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Moxifloxacin 400 mg/orally/once daily for 21 days.</li> </ul>
Gonorrhea	<p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ceftriaxone 500 mg/intramuscular/single dose (1 g if weight &gt; 150 kg).</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cefixime 800 mg/oral/single dose.</li> <li>- Gentamicin 240 mg/intramuscular/single dose + azithromycin 2 g/oral/single dose.</li> </ul>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ceftriaxone 1 g/intramuscular/single dose + Azithromycin 2 g/orally/single dose.</li> <li>- Cefixime 400 mg/orally/single dose + Azithromycin 2 g/orally/single dose.</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ceftriaxone 1 g/intramuscular/single dose (ensuring TOC and <i>Chlamydia</i> treatment).</li> <li>- Gentamicin 240 mg/intramuscular/single dose + Azithromycin 2 g/orally/single dose.</li> </ul>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ceftriaxone 1 g/intramuscular/single dose.</li> <li>- Ciprofloxacin 500 mg/orally/single dose (if sensitivity confirmed by antibiogram).</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cefixime 400 mg/orally/single dose + Azithromycin 2 g/orally/single dose.</li> <li>- Gentamicin 240 mg/intramuscular/single dose + Azithromycin 2 g/orally/single dose.</li> <li>- Azithromycin 2 g/orally/single dose.</li> </ul>
Syphilis	<p>Early syphilis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million IU/intramuscular/single dose.</li> <li>- Doxycycline 100 mg/oral/12 h for 14 days.</li> </ul> <p>Late syphilis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million IU/intramuscular/weekly single dose for 3 weeks (to reach 7.2 million IU).</li> <li>- Doxycycline 100 mg/oral/12 h for 28 days.</li> </ul> <p>Neurosyphilis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aqueous penicillin G 18-24 million IU/IV/daily for 14 days.</li> <li>- Ceftriaxone 1-2 g/intramuscular (or IV)/daily for 10-14 days.</li> </ul>	<p>Early syphilis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million IU/intramuscular/single dose.</li> <li>- Procaine penicillin G 600 000 IU/intramuscular/daily for 10-14 days.</li> <li>- Doxycycline 100 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 14 days.</li> </ul> <p>Late syphilis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million IU/intramuscular/weekly for 3 weeks (to reach 7.2 million IU).</li> <li>- Procaine penicillin G 600 000 IU/intramuscular/daily for 17-21 days.</li> <li>- Doxycycline 100 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 21-28 days.</li> </ul> <p>Neurosyphilis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aqueous crystalline penicillin G 18-24 million IU/IV/once daily for 14 days.</li> <li>- Ceftriaxone 1-2 g/intramuscular (or IV)/once daily for 10-14 days.</li> </ul>	<p>Early syphilis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million IU/intramuscular/single dose.</li> <li>- Procaine penicillin G 600 000 IU/intramuscular/daily for 10-14 days.</li> <li>- Doxycycline 100 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 14 days.</li> <li>- Erythromycin 500 mg/orally/every 6 hours for 14 days.</li> </ul> <p>Late syphilis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million IU/intramuscular/weekly for 3 weeks (to reach 7.2 million IU).</li> <li>- Doxycycline 100 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 28 days.</li> </ul> <p>Neurosyphilis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aqueous crystalline penicillin G 18-24 million IU/IV/once daily for 14 days.</li> <li>- Doxycycline 200 mg/every 12 hours for 28 days.</li> <li>- Ceftriaxone 2 g/intramuscular (or IV)/once daily for 10-14 days.</li> </ul>

**Table 2** (Continued)

Infection	CDC <sup>3</sup>	IUSTI <sup>4-6</sup>	BASHH <sup>7-12</sup>
<i>Mycoplasma genitalium</i> infection	<p>If macrolide resistance testing is available:</p> <p>A) <i>Macrolide-sensitive</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Doxycycline 100 mg/oral/12 h for 7 days, followed by azithromycin 1 g/oral/1 day followed by 500 mg/oral/24 h for 3 days.</li> </ul> <p>B) <i>Macrolide-resistant</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Doxycycline 100 mg/oral/12 h for 7 days followed by moxifloxacin 400 mg/oral/24 h for 7 days.</li> </ul> <p>If macrolide resistance testing is not available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Doxycycline 100 mg/oral/12 h for 7 days followed by moxifloxacin 400 mg/oral/24 h for 7 days.</li> <li>- Alternative: Doxycycline 100 mg/oral/12 h for 7 days, followed by Azithromycin 1 g/oral/24 h for 1 day followed by 500 mg/oral/24 h for 3 days (with need for TOC).</li> </ul>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Azithromycin 500 mg/orally/once daily for 1 day, followed by 250 mg/orally/once daily for 2-5 days.</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Moxifloxacin 400 mg/orally/once daily for 7 days.</li> </ul>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Doxycycline 100 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 7 days, followed by Azithromycin 1 g/orally/once daily for 1 day followed by 500 mg/orally/every 24 hours for 3 days.</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Doxycycline 100 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 7 days followed by Moxifloxacin 400 mg/orally/once daily for 10 days.</li> </ul>
Herpes simplex virus infection	<p>Primary infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acyclovir 400 mg/oral/8 h for 7-10 days.</li> <li>- Famciclovir 250 mg/oral/8 h for 7-10 days.</li> <li>- Valacyclovir 1 g/oral/12 h for 7-10 days.</li> </ul> <p>Recurrences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acyclovir 800 mg/oral/12 h for 5 days.</li> <li>- Acyclovir 800 mg/oral/8 h for 2 days.</li> <li>- Valacyclovir 500 mg/oral/12 h for 3 days.</li> <li>- Valacyclovir 1 g/oral/24 h for 5 days.</li> <li>- Famciclovir 1 g/oral/12 h for 1 day.</li> <li>- Famciclovir 500 mg/oral/12 h for 2 days or 250 mg/oral/12 h for 2 days.</li> </ul>	<p>Primary infection (5-10 day regimen):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acyclovir 400 mg/orally/every 8 hours.</li> <li>- Acyclovir 200 mg/orally/every 4 hours (5 doses).</li> <li>- Famciclovir 250 mg/orally/every 8 hours.</li> <li>- Valacyclovir 500 mg/orally/every 12 hours.</li> </ul> <p>Recurrences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acyclovir 800 mg/orally/every 8 hours for 2 days or 400 mg/orally/every 8 hours for 5 days.</li> <li>- Valacyclovir 500 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 3-5 days.</li> <li>- Famciclovir 1 g/orally/once daily for 1 day or 125 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 5 days.</li> </ul> <p>Suppressive therapy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acyclovir 400 mg/orally/every 12 hours.</li> <li>- Valacyclovir 500 mg/orally/daily or 1 g/orally/daily.</li> </ul>	<p>Primary infection:</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acyclovir 400 mg/orally/every 8 hours for 5 days.</li> <li>- Valacyclovir 500 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 5 days.</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acyclovir 200 mg/orally/every 4 hours (5 doses) for 5 days.</li> <li>- Famciclovir 250 mg/orally/every 8 hours for 5 days.</li> </ul> <p>Recurrences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acyclovir 800 mg/orally/every 8 hours for 2 days.</li> <li>- Famciclovir 1 g/orally/every 12 hours for 1 day.</li> <li>- Valacyclovir 500 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 3-5 days.</li> </ul> <p>Suppressive therapy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acyclovir 400 mg/orally/every 12 hours.</li> <li>- Acyclovir 200 mg/orally/every 6 hours.</li> <li>- Famciclovir 250 mg/orally/every 12 hours.</li> <li>- Valacyclovir 500 mg/orally/daily.</li> </ul>

**Table 2** (Continued)

Infection	CDC <sup>3</sup>	IUSTI <sup>4-6</sup>	BASHH <sup>7-12</sup>
Bacterial vaginosis	<p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Metronidazole 500 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 7 days.</li> <li>- Metronidazole 0.75% gel 5 g/intravaginally/every 24 hours for 5 days.</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clindamycin 2% cream 5 g/intravaginally/every 24 hours for 7 days.</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clindamycin 300 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 7 days.</li> <li>- Clindamycin vaginal suppositories 100 mg/every 24 hours for 3 days.</li> <li>- Tinidazole 2 g/orally/every 24 hours for 2 days or 1 g/orally/every 24 hours for 5 days.</li> </ul> <p>Local treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clotrimazole or miconazole in topical cream (in different available concentrations), or vaginal suppositories for 3-7 days.</li> </ul> <p>Systemic treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fluconazole 150 mg/oral/single dose.</li> </ul>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Metronidazole 400-500 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 5-7 days.</li> <li>- Metronidazole 0.75% gel, 1 application/vaginally/daily for 5 days.</li> <li>- Clindamycin 2% cream, 1 application/vaginally/daily for 7 days.</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Metronidazole 2 g/orally/single dose.</li> <li>- Tinidazole 2 g/orally/single dose.</li> <li>- Tinidazole 1 g/orally/once daily for 5 days.</li> <li>- Clindamycin 300 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 7 days.</li> <li>- Dequalinium chloride 10 mg/vaginally/once daily for 6 days.</li> </ul> <p>Local treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clotrimazole 500 mg/vaginally/single dose.</li> <li>- Clotrimazole 200 mg/vaginally/once daily for 3 days.</li> <li>- Miconazole 1200 mg/vaginally/single dose.</li> <li>- Miconazole 400 mg/vaginally/once daily for 3 days.</li> </ul> <p>Systemic treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fluconazole 150 mg/orally/single dose.</li> <li>- Itraconazole 200 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 1 day.</li> </ul>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Metronidazole 400 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 5-7 days.</li> <li>- Metronidazole 2 g/orally/single dose.</li> <li>- Clindamycin 2% cream, 1 application/vaginally/daily for 5 days.</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tinidazole 2 g/orally/single dose.</li> <li>- Clindamycin 300 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 7 days.</li> </ul> <p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fluconazole 150 mg/orally/single dose.</li> <li>- Clotrimazole 500 mg/vaginally/single dose.</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clotrimazole 10% cream, 1 application/vaginally/single dose.</li> <li>- Clotrimazole 200 mg/vaginally/once daily for 3 days.</li> <li>- Fenticonazole 600 mg/vaginally/single dose.</li> <li>- Fenticonazole 200 mg/vaginally/once daily for 3 days.</li> <li>- Miconazole 1200 mg/vaginally/single dose.</li> <li>- Miconazole 400 mg/vaginally/once daily for 3 days.</li> <li>- Miconazole 2% cream, 1 application/topical/daily for 7 days.</li> </ul> <p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Metronidazole 400-500 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 7 days.</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Metronidazole 2 g/orally/single dose.</li> </ul>
Vulvovaginal candidiasis	<p>Local treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clotrimazole or miconazole in topical cream (in different available concentrations), or vaginal suppositories for 3-7 days.</li> </ul> <p>Systemic treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fluconazole 150 mg/oral/single dose.</li> </ul>	<p>Local treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clotrimazole 500 mg/vaginally/single dose.</li> <li>- Clotrimazole 200 mg/vaginally/once daily for 3 days.</li> <li>- Miconazole 1200 mg/vaginally/single dose.</li> <li>- Miconazole 400 mg/vaginally/once daily for 3 days.</li> </ul> <p>Systemic treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fluconazole 150 mg/orally/single dose.</li> <li>- Itraconazole 200 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 1 day.</li> </ul>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clotrimazole 10% cream, 1 application/vaginally/single dose.</li> <li>- Clotrimazole 200 mg/vaginally/once daily for 3 days.</li> <li>- Fenticonazole 600 mg/vaginally/single dose.</li> <li>- Fenticonazole 200 mg/vaginally/once daily for 3 days.</li> <li>- Miconazole 1200 mg/vaginally/single dose.</li> <li>- Miconazole 400 mg/vaginally/once daily for 3 days.</li> <li>- Miconazole 2% cream, 1 application/topical/daily for 7 days.</li> </ul> <p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Metronidazole 400-500 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 7 days.</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Metronidazole 2 g/orally/single dose.</li> </ul>
Trichomoniasis	<p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Metronidazole 500 mg/oral/12 h for 7 days (in women), or 2 g/oral/single dose (in men).</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tinidazole 2 g/oral/single dose.</li> </ul>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Metronidazole 500 mg/orally/once daily for 7 days.</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Metronidazole 2 g/orally/single dose.</li> <li>- Tinidazole 2 g/orally/single dose.</li> </ul>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Metronidazole 400-500 mg/orally/every 12 hours for 7 days.</li> </ul> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Metronidazole 2 g/orally/single dose.</li> </ul>

d, days; h, hours; TOC, test of cure or post-treatment follow-up.

Early syphilis: primary, secondary, or early latent. Late syphilis: late latent or latent of indeterminate duration.

**Table 3** TOC recommendations.

Infection	CDC <sup>3</sup>	IUSTI <sup>4–6</sup>	BASHH <sup>7–12</sup>
Chlamydia	- Pregnant - Treated with azithromycin (consider).	- Rectal infection treated with azithromycin. - Pregnant. - Infection treated with 2 <sup>nd</sup> -/3 <sup>rd</sup> -line therapy. - Presence of complications. - Any extragenital infection (to be considered).	- Pregnant. - Rectal infection
Lymphogranuloma venereum	- Pregnant.	- Pregnant. - Infection treated with 2 <sup>nd</sup> -/3 <sup>rd</sup> -line therapy.	- Pregnant. - Treatment with fluoroquinolones
Gonorrhea	- In pharyngeal infection - Any extragenital infection (consider).	- In all cases - Any extragenital infection (consider).	- In all cases
<i>Mycoplasma genitalium</i> infection	- If treated with a regimen including azithromycin without macrolide resistance test.	- In all cases	- In all cases
Syphilis	- 6 and 12 months after treatment	- 1, 3, 6, and 12 months after treatment	- 3, 6, and 12 months after treatment

TOC, test of cure or post-treatment follow-up; BASHH, British Association for Sexual Health & HIV; CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; IUSTI, International Union Against Sexually Transmitted Infections.

## Conflicts of interest

None declared.

## References

- Martin-Gorgojo A, Comunión-Artieda A, Descalzo-Gallego MA, Arias-Santiago S, Molina-Leyva A, Gilaberte Y, et al. What Proportion of the Spanish Dermatology Caseload Corresponds to Primarily Sexually Transmitted Infections and Other Anogenital Dermatoses? Results From the DIADERM National Random Survey. *Actas Dermosifiliogr.* 2022;113:22–9.
- Unidad de vigilancia de VIH, ITS, hepatitis B y C. Vigilancia Epidemiológica de las Infecciones de Transmisión Sexual en España, 2021. Madrid: Centro Nacional de Epidemiología – Instituto de Salud Carlos III /División de Control de VIH, ITS, Hepatitis virales y Tuberculosis – Dirección General de Salud Pública, Calidad e Innovación; 2023. [accessed 22 Sept 2023]. Available from: [https://www.isciii.es/QueHacemos/Servicios/VigilanciaSaludPublicaRENAVE/EnfermedadesTransmisibles/Documents/archivos%20A-Z/SIFILIS/Infografia\\_ITS\\_2021.pdf](https://www.isciii.es/QueHacemos/Servicios/VigilanciaSaludPublicaRENAVE/EnfermedadesTransmisibles/Documents/archivos%20A-Z/SIFILIS/Infografia_ITS_2021.pdf).
- Workowski KA, Bachmann LH, Chan PA, Johnston CM, Muzny CA, Park I, et al. Sexually transmitted infections treatment guidelines, 2021. *MMWR Recomm Rep.* 2021;70:1–187.
- Lanjouw E, Ouburg S, de Vries HJ, Stary A, Radcliffe K, Unemo M. 2015 European guideline on the management of Chlamydia trachomatis infections. *Int J STD AIDS.* 2016;27:333–48.
- Unemo M, Ross J, Serwin AB, Gomberg M, Cusini M, Jensen JS. 2020 European guideline for the diagnosis and treatment of gonorrhoea in adults. *Int J STD AIDS.* 2020, 956462420949126.
- Janier M, Unemo M, Dupin N, Tiplica GS, Potočnik M, Patel R. 2020 European guideline on the management of syphilis. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol.* 2021;35:574–88.
- Nwokolo NC, Dragovic B, Patel S, Tong CY, Barker G, Radcliffe K. 2015 UK national guideline for the management of infection with Chlamydia trachomatis. *Int J STD AIDS.* 2016;27:251–67.
- Fifer H, Saunders J, Soni S, Sadiq ST, FitzGerald M. 2018 UK national guideline for the management of infection with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. *Int J STD AIDS.* 2020;31:4–15.
- Kingston M, French P, Higgins S, McQuillan O, Sukthankar A, Stott C, et al. Members of the Syphilis guidelines revision group 2015; Radcliffe K, Cousins D, FitzGerald M, Fisher M, Grover D, Higgins S, Kingston M, Rayment M Sullivan A. UK national guidelines on the management of syphilis 2015. *Int J STD AIDS.* 2016;27:421–46.
- Soni S, Horner P, Rayment M, Pinto-Sander N, Naous N, Parkhouse A, et al. British Association for Sexual Health and HIV national guideline for the management of infection with *Mycoplasma genitalium* (2018). *Int J STD AIDS.* 2019;30:938–50.
- Saxon Lead Author GDGC, Edwards A, Rautemaa-Richardson R, Owen C, Nathan B, Palmer B, et al. British Association for Sexual Health and HIV national guideline for the management of vulvovaginal candidiasis (2019). *Int J STD AIDS.* 2020;31:1124–44.
- Sherrard J, Pitt R, Hobbs KR, Maynard M, Cochrane E, Wilson J, et al. British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) United Kingdom national guideline on the management of *Trichomonas vaginalis* 2021. *Int J STD AIDS.* 2022;33:740–50.
- M. Sandoval-Garcés <sup>a,b,\*</sup>, A. Wang <sup>a,c</sup>, A. Martin-Gorgojo <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Servicio de ITS/Dermatología, Sección de Especialidades Médicas, Ayuntamiento de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

<sup>b</sup> Departamento de Dermatología, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Chile, Santiago de Chile, Chile

<sup>c</sup> Servicio de Dermatología, Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre, Madrid, Spain

\*Corresponding author.

E-mail address: alejandromartingorgojo@aedv.es (M. Sandoval-Garcés).