

# SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT

for recommendations related to the diagnosis,  
management, and follow-up of

## PREGNANT WOMEN

March 2014

### Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections

#### KEY ISSUE

The *Gonococcal Infections* chapter has been revised in response to emerging antimicrobial resistance. As a result, the 2010 print and online versions of the *Pregnancy* chapter of the *Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections* also require updates.

This statement is intended to inform clinicians of **key changes in the management of gonococcal infections in pregnant women** until such time as the full chapter revision is available.

#### DIAGNOSIS

- Evaluation of pregnant women and the need for clinicians to have a lower threshold for screening for sexually transmitted infections remains the same as outlined in the current chapter with the exception of the following laboratory testing considerations:
  - Detection of *N. gonorrhoeae* or *C. trachomatis* may be enhanced by the use of nucleic acid amplification tests (NAAT). Culture for *N. gonorrhoeae* is strongly recommended to evaluate pregnant women as it allows for antimicrobial susceptibility testing. Consideration should be given to collection of samples for both culture and NAAT.

#### TREATMENT

- In pregnant women who have a suspected or confirmed gonococcal infection, treatment should include combination therapy, in response to increasing antimicrobial resistance.
  - Combination therapy using medications with two different mechanisms of action is thought to improve treatment efficacy as well as to potentially delay the emergence of cephalosporin-resistant gonorrhea.
  - This combination therapy also includes effective treatment for concomitant chlamydia infection, which occurs frequently.
- **Table 2** in the current *Pregnancy* chapter **is out of date and should not be used to guide treatment decisions.**
- Refer to *Table 7* in the *Gonococcal Infections* chapter for treatment recommendations and to the *Follow-up* section for test of cure recommendations.



## FOLLOW-UP

- Those who have confirmed gonococcal infection should be reported to local public health and followed up as per the recommendations in the *Partner notification* and *Follow-up* sections of the *Gonococcal Infections* chapter.

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