

**Webtable 1 [as supplied by authors]: Characteristics of included studies ordered according to publication date**

Study ID	Infection	Setting	Interventions	Outcome of primary interest (follow-up)	Number of patients	Age Sex	Results <sup>a</sup>
Kissinger 2006 <sup>w1</sup>	T. vaginalis	1 urban women's health clinic, USA 12/2001-08/2004	<i>Experimental I:</i> PDPT for max. 4 partners (content: antibiotics, drug information, pager number of nurse). <i>Experimental II:</i> Tear-out cards with info for partner and treatment guidelines for health care provider. <i>Control:</i> Patient referral without contact cards.	Persistent or recurrent infections (Follow-up based on index patients; care in external centres considered for some outcomes)	<i>Overall:</i> 463 <i>Experimental I:</i> 154 <i>Experimental II:</i> 154 <i>Control:</i> 155	Mean age: <i>Overall:</i> 26 years Sex: Only ♀ eligible	<i>Persistent or recurrent infections:</i> 9.4% (Exp. I) vs. 9.0% (Exp. II) vs. 6.3% (Con.); p = 0.64
Golden 2005 <sup>w3</sup>	N. gonorrhoeae C. trachomatis	2 STD clinics, USA 09/1998-03/2003	<i>Experimental:</i> PDPT (content: antibiotics, drug information, pager number of nurse, condoms, STI information, info that STI care is free). <i>Control:</i> Patient referral without contact cards.	Persistent or recurrent infections (Follow-up based on index patients; care in external centres not considered)	<i>Overall:</i> 2751 <i>Experimental:</i> 1375 <i>Control:</i> 1376	Mean age: <i>Experimental:</i> 23 years; <i>Control:</i> 23 years Sex: <i>Experimental:</i> ♂ 317 (23%); ♀ 1058 (77%) <i>Control:</i> ♂ 329 (24%); ♀ 1047 (76%)	<i>Persistent or recurrent infections:</i> 10% (Exp.) vs. 13% (Con.) Δ = 3%; 95%-CI: 0 to 6%; p = 0.04
Kissinger 2005 <sup>w2</sup>	N. gonorrhoeae C. trachomatis	1 public STD clinic, USA 12/2001-03/2004	<i>Experimental I:</i> PDPT for up to 4 partners (content: antibiotics, drug information, pager number of nurse). <i>Experimental II:</i> Tear-out cards with info for partner and treatment guidelines for health care professional. <i>Control:</i> Patient referral without contact cards.	Persistent or recurrent infections (Follow-up based on index patients; care in external centres considered for primary outcome)	<i>Overall:</i> 977 <i>Experimental I:</i> 344 <i>Experimental II:</i> 348 <i>Control:</i> 285	< 24 years of age: <i>Experimental I:</i> 52% <i>Experimental II:</i> 46% <i>Control:</i> 47% Sex: Only ♂ eligible	<i>Persistent or recurrent infections:</i> 6% (Exp. I) vs. 5% (Exp. II) vs. 12% (Con.); p < 0.01 <i>Proportion of partners treated per elicited partners:</i> 56% (Exp. I) vs. 46% (Exp. II) vs. 35% (Con.)
Schillinger 2003 <sup>w4</sup>	C. trachomatis	Multicentre (family planning, adolescent, primary care,	<i>Experimental:</i> PDPT for max. 4 partners (content: antibiotics, drug information, STI information, advice to abstain from intercourse in next 7 days, contact information of health care	Persistent or recurrent infections (Follow-up based on index patients; care in external	<i>Overall:</i> 1889 <i>Experimental:</i> 946 <i>Control:</i> 943	< 25 years of age: <i>Experimental:</i> 84% <i>Control:</i> 82% Sex:	<i>Persistent or recurrent infections:</i> 12% (Exp.) vs. 15% (Con.) Δ = 3%; 95%-CI: 1 to 6%; p = 0.11

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		STD clinics; emergency departments; hospital departments), USA 09/1996-06/2000	provider). <i>Control:</i> Patient referral with contact cards.	centres not considered)		Only ♀ eligible	
Ostergaard 2003 <sup>w8</sup>	C. trachomatis	Setting unclear, Denmark 02/1999-03/2000	<i>Experimental:</i> Home sampling (content: sterile specimen container, information on collecting urine/specimens, prepaid return-envelope). <i>Control:</i> Patient referral with sampling kit for health care provider.	Partners tested (Follow-up based on partners; care in external centres not considered)	<i>Overall:</i> 1826 (562 recruited) <sup>b</sup> <i>Experimental:</i> 932 (304 recruited) <i>Control:</i> 894 (258 recruited)	Mean age: <i>Experimental:</i> ♂ 26 years; ♀ 23 years <i>Control:</i> ♂ 25 years; ♀ 24 years  Sex: <i>Experimental:</i> ♂ 27%; ♀ 73% <i>Control:</i> ♂ 26%; ♀ 74%	<i>Partners tested per index patient:</i> ♂ 0.16 (Exp.) vs. 0.04 (Con.); p < 0.0001 ♀ 0.31 vs. 0.14 (Con.); p < 0.0001 <i>Proportion with ≥ 1 partner tested:</i> 22% (Exp.) vs. 10% (Con.); Δ = 12%; 95%-CI: 9 to 15%; p < 0.0001
Moyo 2002 <sup>w9</sup>	Syndromically diagnosed bacterial STI	2 public STD clinics, Zimbabwe 07-09/2000	<i>Experimental:</i> Individualised, single counselling (30 min.), health care voucher for partners plus control intervention. <i>Control:</i> Unclear (baseline interview of 30 min.).	Partners notified (Follow-up based on index patients)	<i>Overall:</i> 272 <i>Experimental:</i> 131 <i>Control:</i> 141	Median age: <i>Experimental:</i> 28 years <i>Control:</i> 26 years  Sex: <i>Experimental:</i> ♂ 53%; ♀ 47% <i>Control:</i> ♂ 46%; ♀ 54%	<i>Proportion with ≥ 1 partner notified:</i> 92% (Exp.) vs. 67% (Con.); p < 0.001 <i>Adverse events:</i> physical abuse ("few women"), fear of physical violence (2 women), verbal abuse (men and women); no difference between groups
Nuwaha 2001 <sup>w5</sup>	Syndromically diagnosed STI	STD clinic, Uganda 11/1999-01/2000	<i>Experimental:</i> PDPT (content: antibiotics). <i>Control:</i> Patient referral with contact cards.	Partners treated (Follow-up based on partners and index patients;	<i>Overall:</i> 383 <i>Experimental:</i> 192 <i>Control:</i> 191	< 25 years of age: <i>Experimental:</i> ♂ 64%; ♀ 60% <i>Control:</i> ♂ 65%; ♀	<i>Partners treated/referred per partners elicited:</i> 176/237 (74%, Exp.) vs. 79/234 (34%, Con.);

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				unclear if care in external centres considered)		62% Sex: <i>Experimental</i> : ♂ 52%; ♀ 48% <i>Control</i> : ♂ 51%; ♀ 49%	risk ratio 2.44 (95%-CI: 1.95 to 3.07) <i>Adverse events per partners</i> : quarrelling 23/187 vs. 11/117; quarrelling and fighting 1/187 vs. 1/117
Kissinger 1998 <sup>w6</sup>	C. trachomatis	1 family planning clinic, USA 10/1993-12/1994	<i>Experimental</i> : PDPT (content: antibiotics). <i>Control</i> : Patient referral with contact cards.	Persistent or recurrent infections (Follow-up based on index patients, care in external centres not considered)	<i>Overall</i> : 256 <i>Experimental</i> : 43 <i>Control</i> : 135	< 22 years of age: <i>Experimental</i> : 61% <i>Control</i> : 72% Sex: Only ♀ eligible	<i>Persistent or recurrent infections</i> <sup>c</sup> : 12% (Exp.) vs. 22% (Con.) Δ = 11%; 95%-CI: 4 to 18%; p < 0.05
Andersen 1998 <sup>w7</sup>	C. trachomatis	Multicentre (general practices), Denmark Date unclear	<i>Experimental</i> : Home sampling (content: sterile specimen container, information on collecting urine, prepaid return-envelope). <i>Control</i> : Patient referral with sampling kit for health care provider.	Partners tested (Follow-up based on partners; care in external centres not considered)	<i>Overall</i> : 96 <i>Experimental</i> : 45 <i>Control</i> : 51	Age unclear Sex: Only ♀ eligible	<i>Partners tested per index patient</i> : 0.98 (Exp.) vs. 0.37 (Con.) <i>Partners tested positive per index patient</i> : 0.27 (Exp.) vs. 0.14 (Con.): Δ = 0.13; 95%-CI: -0.03 to 0.29
Faxelid 1996 <sup>w10</sup>	Sexually transmitted disease	1 health centre, Zambia 10/1992-03/1993	<i>Experimental</i> : Verbal health education, counselling and choice between provider and patient referral with contact cards. <i>Control</i> : Routine counselling (no details reported)	Partners notified (Follow-up based on index patients; care in external centres considered)	<i>Overall</i> : 396 <i>Experimental</i> : 196 <i>Control</i> : 200	Median age: <i>Experimental</i> : ♂ 29 years; ♀ 22 years <i>Control</i> : ♂ 29 years; ♀ 22 years Sex: <i>Experimental</i> : ♂ 77%; ♀ 23% <i>Control</i> : ♂ 76%; ♀ 24%	<i>Proportion with ≥ 1 partner notified</i> : ♂ 100% (Exp.) vs. 93% (Con.); Δ = 7%; 95%-CI: 3% to 11%; p = 0.001 ♀ 72% (Exp.) vs. 56% (Con.); Δ = 15%; 95%-CI: -4 to 35%; p = 0.14

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Katz 1988 <sup>w11</sup>	Non-gonococcal urethritis	1 STD clinic, USA 1980	<i>Experimental:</i> Verbal health education, counseling and patient referral with contact cards. <i>Control:</i> Patient referral without contact cards. <sup>d</sup>	Partners treated (Follow-up based on partners; care in external centers not considered)	<i>Overall:</i> 457 <i>Experimental:</i> 217 <i>Control:</i> 240	Age unclear  Sex: Only ♂ eligible	<i>Partners treated per index patient:</i> 0.22 (Exp.) vs. 0.18 (Con.): $\Delta = 0.04$ ; 95%-CI: -0.04 to 0.12 <i>Partners tested positive per index patient:</i> 0.03 (Exp.) vs. 0.03 (Con.): $\Delta = 0$ ; 95%-CI: -0.03 to 0.03
Solomon 1988 <sup>w12</sup>	N. gonorrhoeae	1 public STD clinic, USA 05/1984-01/1985	<i>Experimental:</i> Educational videotape and patient referral with contact cards. <i>Control:</i> Patient referral with contact cards	Partners tested (Follow-up based on partners using contact cards; care in external centers not considered)	<i>Overall:</i> 902 <i>Experimental:</i> 456 <i>Control:</i> 446	Median age: <i>Overall:</i> 23 years  Sex: Only ♂ eligible	<i>Partners tested:</i> "no significant difference" (denominator unclear)
Cleveland undated <sup>w13</sup>	N. gonorrhoeae	1 public health clinic, USA Date unclear	<i>Experimental:</i> Educational pamphlet, verbal health education counseling and patient referral with contact cards. <i>Control:</i> Patient referral with contact cards. <sup>e</sup>	Partners tested (Follow-up based on partners (partners tested and index patients (reinfection); care in external centers not considered for partners tested)	<i>Overall:</i> 1266 <i>Experimental:</i> 634 <i>Control:</i> 632	< 26 years of age: <i>Overall:</i> 67% <sup>e</sup>  Sex: <i>Overall:</i> ♂ 94%; ♀ 6% <sup>e</sup>	<i>Partners tested per index patient:</i> 0.37 (Exp.) vs. 0.37 (Con.) <i>Persistent or recurrent infections:</i> 6% (Exp.) vs. 8% (Con.): $\Delta = 1\%$ ; 95%-CI: % -2 to 3%; p = 0.76
Ellison undated <sup>w14</sup>	Syndromically diagnosed STI	Community health clinic, South Africa Date unclear	<i>Experimental I:</i> Standardised verbal health education message and patient referral with contact cards. <i>Experimental II:</i> Individualised, single counseling and patient referral with contact cards. <i>Experimental III:</i> Experimental I, II, and patient referral with contact cards. <i>Control:</i> Patient referral with contact	Partners treated (Follow-up based on partners using contact cards; care in external centers not considered)	<i>Overall:</i> 1719 <i>Experimental I:</i> 431 <i>Experimental II:</i> 423 <i>Experimental III:</i> 417 <i>Control:</i> 433	Age unclear  Sex unclear	<i>Partners treated per index patient:</i> 0.20 (Exp. I) vs. 0.18 (Con.): $\Delta = 0.02$ ; 95%-CI: -0.04 to 0.08; 0.22 (Exp. II) vs. 0.18 (Con.): $\Delta = 0.04$ ; 95%-CI: -0.02 to 0.10; 0.25 (Exp. III) vs. 0.18

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							cards. (Con.): $\Delta = 0.07$ ; 95%-CI: 0.01 to 0.13

### Legend:

PDPT, patient-delivered partner therapy; STI, sexually transmitted infection; Exp, experimental; Con, control;  $\Delta$  difference; superscripts w1-14 refer to the reference list available at [www.bmj.com](http://www.bmj.com)

- <sup>a</sup> Results are presented according to the primary analysis presented in the report (p-values or confidence intervals calculated if not reported and enough details reported). Differences do not necessarily add up due to rounding. Intention-to-treat analysis was assumed if all randomised patients were analysed.
- <sup>b</sup> Patients consented after randomisation.
- <sup>c</sup> Results reported as rate per patient year.
- <sup>d</sup> This trial had an additional experimental group using provider referral. Note: in the article 'patient referral without contact card' is the experimental group. For reasons of consistency we exchanged the labelling of the experimental and control group.
- <sup>e</sup> This trial had an additional experimental group using contract referral (overall sample size n=1898). Baseline characteristics were reported for all three groups combined.