A return of the infectious diseases in rural America
Maxime Coles MD
5-31-19

Residing in Coffeyville KS, we all heard about the famous “dominoes gang” in Joplin MO, visiting the health clinics and soon, we discovered that a group of men in the 60’s and 70’s were holding late night activities in which they were playing games and having sex with one another. A large number of them showed up in clinics, infected with syphilis and other sexually transmitted diseases like chlamydia etc.

I remember then, we experienced a similar problem in the nursing homes around the city of Bridgeport CT during the mid-1990’s. We also discovered that younger prostitutes were visiting the nursing home to provide their services to the aging residents and sex was included as a gratuity. The alarming number of residents contacting sexually transmitted diseases became a problem for the community and for the institutions providing care. This was the time of the Colombian cartel and daily multiple gunshots were recorded and seen at the Level One trauma of Bridgeport Hospital soon to become Bridgeport Yale Health.

In this number
- Words of the Editor, Maxime Coles, MD
- La chronique de Rony Jean-Mary, M.D.
- La chronique de Reynald Altema, M.D.
- Louis Frank Telemaque MD fait ses adieux
- Afin de suivre les activités de l’AMHE
- Upcoming Events
- Published on the AMHE Facebook page last two weeks
- And more…
In Joplin, MO, many infected with venereal diseases started coming to the healthcare facilities. Older and younger men and women, teenagers and pregnant women presented in growing numbers and many cases of Syphilis were diagnosed and treated with Benzathine Penicillin G. Counties in the Midwest and in the West of the United States are becoming the most prone to have syphilis although cities like San Francisco, Las Vegas and Atlanta are still showing high number of cases. The spreading of syphilis continues to be a problem in states like Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Iowa creating a challenge for the healthcare organizations. Rural areas tend to have less access to healthcare and these clinics are less skilled in diagnosing such disease. Non marital sex and homosexuality encourage the spread of the sexually transmitted diseases among these populations.

Statistics from the Kaiser Health News in 2012 have demonstrated that Syphilis has more than quadrupled and last year cases for other sexually transmitted diseases have also jumped from 425 to 1896. More cases of syphilis were registered to at least an eightfold for the cities of Saint Louis and Kansas City. Cases of Syphilis skyrocketed from rural Missouri across the state. Centers which generally treat 5 cases are now seeing 32 cases around Kansas City and St Louis. In 1989, the CDC had plans to eradicate the sexually transmitted diseases nationwide.

Syphilis is indeed, treatable and curable but can cause permanent neurological problems, blindness, paralysis and even death. This disease is back also in part because of an increasing drug use. Unfortunately, the health officials may be losing the fight because of the federal and state cuts in health funding and the crumbing public health infrastructure. It is amazing that such a disease which once, was almost eradicated in the modern western, is bouncing back. The young are afraid to go to the clinics by fear of the disease being reported to their parents or that they may be the subject of gossiping. Many men are not telling the truth to their family by fear they may discover that they are performing sex with other men as well. Often, one may have no idea that their partner cheated in their relationship. More, the examining physician may have never seen lesions of secondary syphilis or may have never thought about asking the disease.

This current epidemic of syphilis and other sexually transmitted disease, appears to be more prevalent in men having sex with men and in 2013, an alarming number of women with the disease facilitated as well an alarming jump in congenital syphilis, causing miscarriage, birth deformities, stillbirth and other complications.

Syphilis is spreading to non-urban Missouri, Kansas cities and with it, an increase amount of cases of HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and Sexually transmitted diseases. In a parallel, the Center for Control Disease (CDC) reported a rising number of women who have contacted syphilis and the men who used to be their partners, self-reported the use of methamphetamines, heroin or other intravenous drugs. Public health officials report as well, an increase in drug use with the risk of trading sex for drugs. Dr. Hilary Reno is an Assistant-Professor at the Washington University School of Medicine, in St Louis MO who has been researching the relation between the Syphilis transmission and the use of drug in the states of Missouri and Kansas. She pointed out that more than half of the studied cases from 2015 to June 2018, were also associated to the use of drugs. We have to remember that in 2015, 4,5 million people were infected with Syphilis and 107,00 deaths were recorded in
the United States. The rate of infection has increased with the turn of the new millennium in many countries, often associated with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Promiscuity, Sex without condom, Prostitution, unsafe sexual practices and homosexuality have contributed to the propagation of the disease. In a side note, we have to remember that the first country in the world to have eliminated “mother to child transmission” of Syphilis, was Cuba.

Unfortunately, there is less federal funding for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Prevention although the number of cases have quadrupled in the Midwest. The resources stayed stagnant in Texas, New-York, Oregon. Many states have allocated supplemental money to fight this problem confronted by the local clinics in providing also transportation. We are facing more obstacles with the technology actually available. Sexual partners were more reachable with the various anonymous “Apps” and tracking back those partners becomes more difficult. Many educational programs on Instagram, Grindr, Facebook etc. have been tried to minimize the situation. Dr. H. Reno believes that perhaps, the state of Missouri should contribute fairly to eliminate the problem. Unfortunately, nationwide, health clinics function with limited hours of service have reduced the capability in screening with added cost to patients looking for services.

It is an important battle that we cannot afford to lose in the Tornadoes’ Alley and anywhere else in the United States of America. We only have to remember that Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease caused by a bacterium: “The Treponema Pallidum”. We learned that four stages are recognized in a Primary, Secondary, a latent and a tertiary form. The primary stage is manifested a painless chancre, firm and non-itchy less than 2 centimeters in diameter unless there are more than one present. In the secondary stage, the presence of a rash involving the palms and the soles. Occasionally, there may be sores in or around the mouth or the vagina or the rectum. A latent form can last for years without showing any specific symptoms but finally, a tertiary phase will present with typical lesions called “Gummas” (soft and non-cancerous growth), neurological problems with “Tabes Dorsalis” and Paralysis or Heart problems. Our beloved professor Victor Boyer, in his unique style at the State University of Haiti, School of Medicine and Pharmacy, was so proud in his lectures to define this disease, as the “great imitator”. Because all the symptoms presented at different phases can be found in many other diseases.

We have learned about the origins and we were told that many believe that this Syphilis was contracted by humans after the Spanish conquerors developed the habits of performing sex with sheep. Nowadays, the disease is most commonly contracted and spread through sexual activity. It can be transmitted congenitally from mother to the baby during delivery or at birth during its passage. Sex without condom, Prostitution, unsafe sexual practices and homosexuality have contributed to the propagation of the disease. In a side note, we have to remember that the first country in the world to have eliminated “mother to child transmission” of Syphilis, was Cuba, our neighbor. In Haiti and other Caribbean countries, the bacteria can trigger other non-venereal forms of the disease like “Yaws” (Pertenue) or “Pinta” (Carateum). or a non-venereal form of Syphilis (Endemicum) which are not typically transmitted sexually. The search for the bacteria dead or alive, through serous fluid from a chancre or any lesion, using a dark field Fluorescein microscopy, can be helpful: The Direct Fluorescent Antibody
(DFA) detects the antibodies attached on the proteins while the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) detect the genes. All pregnant women in the United States are mandatorily tested. Blood tests are divided into treponemal and non-treponemal tests. The Venereal Disease Research Laboratory (VDRL) is a non-treponemal test as well as the Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR). Occasionally, a false positivity can be seen with some viral infections like Varicella (Chickenpox) or Measles, lymphoma, Tuberculosis, Malaria, Connective tissue diseases etc. On the other side, a treponemal test such as Treponemal Pallidum Particle Agglutination (TPHA) or Fluorescent Treponemal Antibody Test (FTA-Abs) look for particles or antibodies to the Treponema. Further, during the stage of Neurosyphilis, large numbers of lymphocytes with a high protein level may be found in the cerebrospinal fluid and can be used as a diagnostic test.

We would not miss the opportunity to remind one that the risk of sexual transmission of Syphilis can be reduced by the use of a latex or a polyurethane condom. More as we already mentioned it above, Syphilis can be treated with Benzathine Penicillin with an intra-muscular injection. Often, one will present with a Penicillin allergy and the drug of choice will be Tetracycline or Doxycycline. In cases with advanced disease and Neurosyphilis, IV injections are recommended and even intra thecal mode of injections have been performed. One may expect fever, headache and muscle spasms, a reaction often encountered during the treatment and known as “Jarisch-Herxheimer “ reaction.

Maxime Coles MD

References:
1- Kaiser Health News (KHN) Editorial from Kaiser Permanente 4-24-19
2- Upswing of Syphilis in Women with HIV
4- Syphilis: CDC Fact Sheet: November 2015/June 2915
7- “Pinta” Nord 13 April 2018.
BIEN CHERS LECTEURS,

AVEC CEUX DU CŒUR ET DE L’AME....ET COMME JE N’AI JAMAIS CESSE DE CROIRE DANS LE DESTIN GLORIEUX DE MON PAYS, CELA M’A PERMIS DE VOIR ET DE SENTIR CE QUE NE PEUVENT SENTIR N LE MECREANT, NI LE DESESPERE.... J’AI AUSSI VU, CE DIMANCHE MATIN, DES ENFANTS, UNE CENTAINE AU MOINS, DE BLANC VETUS, CHAPELETS À LA MAIN, DEFILANT FIEREMENT DANS LES RUES ET MARCHANT VERS L’ÉGLISE PAROISSIALE. VERS LE SACREMENT DE LA PREMIÈRE COMMUNION....J’AI COMPRIS À L’INSTAR DE CONCONFICIUS QUE LA DECHANCE N’EST PAS ETERNELLE ; QUE DU FOND DE L’ABIME PEUT SURGIR UN JOUR DE LA LUMIERE, QUE L’HOMME SI BAS QU’IL PUISSE TOMBER, PEUT UN JOUR SE RELEVER, FUYANT LA LAIDEUR, L’EGOISME ET LA NOIRCEUR, POUR EMBRASSER LA LUMIERE, LE NOBLE, LE BEAU ET LE GENEREUX.. J’AI VU DANS CES PETITS ENFANTS LA GENERATION À SAUVEGARDER ET À PROTEGER, LE MAILLON QUI RECONSTRUIRA LA CHAINE QUI DEPUIS S’EST CASSE. J’AI VU DANS CES PETITS ENFANTS LA GENERATION À SAUVEGARDER ET À PROTEGER, LE MAILLON QUI RECONSTRUIRA LA CHAINE QUI DEPUIS S’EST CASSE.

VIVRE DANS CE PAYS, Y REVENIR A CHAQUE FOIS ‘EST COMME UN VERITABLE ACTE DE FOI OU SEUL UN GRAIN DE FOLIE ET UNE VISION PRESCIE CHRISTOPHIENNE DE LA VIE NOUS PORTERAIENT À NOUS PERCHER SUR UN SOMMET POUR ARRETER LA DEGRINGOLADE ET CONSTRUIRE EN MEME TEMPS UNE CITADELLE,….QUAND J’AI DIT À MES AMIS , À CEUX DE MON ENTOURAGE COMBIEN J’AIMERAI VOIR CE PAYS SORTIR DE SA TORPEUR, ILS M’ONT TOUS REPONDU QUE LE CHANGEMENT N’EST PAS POUR DEMAIN....MAIS L’ESPOIR NE SE LIT JAMAIS AVEC LES YEUX DE LA TETE OU LES REFLETS. DU REGARD SINON

JE M’EXCUSE AU PRES DE VOUS, MES CHERS LECTEURS POUR LA NON PARUTION DE MA CHRONIQUE DANS LE NEWSLETTER DE CETTE SEMAINE. EN GUISE DE RUBRIQUE, J’AI PLUTOT CHOISI DE DIRE OU JE SUIS ET COMMENT JE PASSERAI MON TEMPS. JE SERAI EN VOYAGE JUSQU’ À LA FIN DE LA SEMAINE PROCHAINE. MAIS JE FERAI CERTAINEMENT D’AMPLES PROVISIONS POUR LES PARUTIONS SUBSEQUENTES.

QUAND L’ESPRIT EST TENDU, VOIRE TROP TENDU, IL A BESOIN DE SE DETENDRE POUR MIEUX SE RETENDRE. JE VISITE MON PAYS HAITI, UNE TERRE OÙ LA DESOLATION SEMBLE ÊTRE PARTOUT..ON PARLE DE FAMINE, DE SECHERESSE, DE GUERRE ET DE BRUIT DE GUERRE. ON AURAIT TENDANCE À CROIRE QUE LE PIRE EST À VENIR, QUE LA DESCENTE VERS LE PRECIPICE POURRAIT S’ARRÊTER PENDANT ENCORE TRES LONGTEMPS. AUCUNE LUEUR D’ESPOIR ET DE CERTITUDE NE SEMBLE POINTER À L’HORIZON.

VIVRE DANS CE PAYS, Y REVENIR À CHAQUE FOIS ‘EST COMME UN VERITABLE ACTE DE FOI OU SEUL UN GRAIN DE FOLIE ET UNE VISION PRESCIE CHRISTOPHIENNE DE LA VIE NOUS PORTERAIENT À NOUS PERCHER SUR UN SOMMET POUR ARRETER LA DEGRINGOLADE ET CONSTRUIRE EN MEME TEMPS UNE CITADELLE,….QUAND J’AI DIT À MES AMIS , À CEUX DE MON ENTOURAGE COMBIEN J’AIMERAI VOIR CE PAYS SORTIR DE SA TORPEUR, ILS M’ONT TOUS REPONDU QUE LE CHANGEMENT N’EST PAS POUR DEMAIN....MAIS L’ESPOIR NE SE LIT JAMAIS AVEC LES YEUX DE LA TETE OU LES REFLETS. DU REGARD SINON

RONY JEAN-MARY, M.D.
HINCHE, HAITI, LE 2 JUIN 2019.
Fatherhood

A newborn is an immense responsibility,
Lifelong commitment well within one’s capability.
Holder of half of one’s genetic imprint,
Carrying on legacy of one’s footprint.
In child’s life, a Dad needs to be at the ready,
For all firsts and against any stumble to steady.
Homework, bike ride, nursery rhymes, without missing a beat,
At varsity games and for music performance be at front row seat.
Driving lessons or bills’ payment.
Dad’s wallet, communal piggy bank, available any moment.
Trip to barber, lesson on twisting tie into neat knot,
Tickets for a ball game, no excuse and what not.
Spoil daughter with shoulder for consolation,
Proudly walk her down the aisle by offering vaunted sanction.
Cardinal rules without exception:

“Never miss any kid’s life’s milestone,
At the risk of the loss of the distinction
Of being the family’s cornerstone.

A child must know, he will never be alone,
Days that are happy, bright, or woebegone.”

Do whatever it takes to help a child succeed in life,
To protect the family, be willing to go to strife,
Do all of the above without asking for anything in return,
Except an occasional “I love you Dad,”
Words warm far more than a tad
Just to make the heart flutter and not churn.

Need it be retold, a baby’s smile, a child’s embrace,
With all their effusive grace
Mean as much as a phone call
Later on to reassure, greet
Or just be sweet

As Dad becomes old, sick, feeble, and easy to fall.
Excerpted from The Voice, published in August 2018.
Louis Frank Telemaque MD fait ses adieux au monde medical et nous fait part de quelques souvenirs d’une vie bien pleine a la faculte, a l’hopital General (HUEH) et ailleurs. Compliments a Louis Frank Telemaque MD pour avoir ete un modele pour tant de generations de jeunes dans le service de Chirurgie.

1978 2019
41 années

Ambiance très studieuse sur la cour de l’hôpital....

Le Nouvelliste
Dr Louis-Franck Télémague, chirurgien-vedette du service public haïtien

Afin de suivre les activités de l’AMHE, vous pouvez consulter les médias suivants :

**Le Newsletter** : publié toutes les 2 semaines, en cliquant sur ce lien vous pouvez également en consulter les archives de même un abonné peut inscrire des amis aussi intéressés à recevoir le AMHE Newsletter en enregistrant son nom et son adresse électronique. Le système doit s’assurer que vous n’êtes pas un computer qui essaye de pénétrer nos data.

**Facebook** : l’AMHE a son compte Facebook et nous vous invitons a la visiter aussi souvent que possible, journalièrement pour recevoir des nouvelles d’actualité dans le monde médical. La page Facebook est très familière et vous laissera placer vos impressions et messages. Cette page vous instruira sur la plupart des activités de l’AMH, des facultés de Médecine en Haïti etc. Nous aimons a reporter tout ce qui touche le monde médical de chez nous ou d’ailleurs présentant un intérêt particulier à nos membres.

**Twitter** : l’AMHE a son compte Twitter que beaucoup utilisent dans l’administration et qui peut être une plateforme pour débats médicaux. J’exhorte tous ceux qui savent s’en servir de prendre l’initiative et de nous guider afin que notre page Twitter soit aussi visitée que la page Facebook.

**Calendar of Events / Calendriers des événements** : Vous pouvez consulter le calendrier des activités de l’AMHE qui est remanié régulièrement par notre Directeur Exécutif et notre secrétaire général. Le « Board of Trustees », Le « Central Executive Committee », tous chapitres et tous les membres de l’association sont toujours invités à placer sur le calendrier de la AMHE, les dates relatives à des activités locales ou internationales du chapitre et de ses membres.

Jacques Arpin et Maxime Coles
Donate Now
NOAH NY 10th Annual Gala by NOAH NY Medical Mission

https://secure.givelively.org/donate/noah-new-york-incorporated/noah-ny-10th-annual-gala

Published on the AMHE Facebook page last two weeks
Articles parus sur la page Facebook de l'AMHE durant la dernière semaine

And more…

Rénovation de la Maternite à Justinien
Upcoming Events

Night of Hope

COMMITTEE
Ivyne Duclercin, MD
President
Jacques Raymond, MD
First Vice President
Norma White, PhD
Second Vice President
Regine Dupont, MSN
Secretory
Sandra Heubel, MD
1st Secretary
Marie Dina Dusque, InS
2nd Secretary
Harold Lorache, MD
Treasurer
Lesly Acacia, BS
Assistant Treasurer
Herve Bonnard, MD
Immediate Past President

ADVISORS
Yolyne Albelaud, MD
Serge Bostemps, MD
Marie Alex Caise, MD
Didier Deenouin, MD
Judith A. Gaston
Gracie
Elizabeth Hirsch, RN
Odler Robert Jeandile, MD
Stanley Jean-Baptiste, TMD
Niva Leger
Trey Leger, MD
Barbara Issad, CSW
Margaret O. Saint-Fleur, MD

Association Medico Haitienne A L’étranger
New Jersey Chapter
requests the honor of your presence at

Night of Hope
A Black Tie Affair Featuring:
Musical - Cocktail - Dinner Show - Dance Party

Double Tree
by Hilton Hotel
Newark Airport
120 Frontage Road, Newark, NJ 07114
Date: Saturday June 8, 2019
Time: 7:00PM
Contribution $150 (Tax Deductible)
Phone: (973) 865-1317
E-mail: amhejni@gmail.com
Website: amhenj.org

Information: 973-865-1317 • AMHEHJ.org

2019 AMHE Convention

The rates below are for a 9 Days/8 Nights package (3-night stay in Havana, 5-night stay in Varadero). Rates are based on Double, Single, or Triple occupancy. Occupancy rates are for 2 Adults and one or two children (3-11 years old). Children 12 and older pay adult prices. This package is available only for 9 Days/8 Nights.

9 Days/8 Nights Package (July 20 to 28 2019)

- $1799 per person double occupancy (2 adults per room). Early bird pays $1439 double – 50% non-refundable deposit required before February 1, 2019 (AMHE members and non-members)
- $2199 per person single occupancy (1 adult per room). Early bird pays $1759 single - 50% non-refundable deposit required before February 1, 2019 (AMHE members and non-members)
- $899 per child (ages 3 to 11) sharing a room with an adult. Early bird pays $719 per child - 50% non-refundable deposit required before February 1, 2019

The above Package includes: All meals, Beverages (Varadero Only), Entertainment, Excursions, Roundtrip transportation from and to Airport and from hotel to hotel, Internet Access. Two private parties (President, Gala nights) along with all Taxes and Gratuities.

DISCOUNT – ON HOTEL BOOKING

- Early bird price will be extended to everyone until February 1, 2019.
- After February 1, 2019 active AMHE members in good standing (2019 dues paid and up to date) will get 10% discount up to May 1st
- A non-refundable 50% deposit of the total price (before discount) is due at the time of the booking.
- PLEASE NOTE: The 50% deposit is non-refundable.
- The appropriate discount will be applied upon final payment that will be due NO LATER than June 1, 2019. This discount will be forfeited if final payment is not received on that date.

SEE YOU ALL IN CUBA
A ONCE IN A LIFETIME TRIP: NOT TO BE MISSED!