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Signs, Symptoms, and Clinical Approach to Monkeypox

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Signs, Symptoms, and Clinical Approach to Monkeypox (hMPXV)

Sean Wang, Larner College of Medicine '24

South End Health Center, CHCB

Family Medicine Rotation (4), 2022

Mentors: Martha Seagrave

Problem Identification

- There is current and emergent multinational monkeypox (MPox) outbreak disproportionately affecting men who have sex with men, including persons with HIV infection¹
- MPox was declared a public health emergency on August 4, 2022²
- Prompt diagnosis, treatment, and prevention might reduce the risk for adverse outcomes and limit monkeypox spread¹

Public Health Cost

- The US Dept. Human and Health Services has made 442,000 vaccines available for the public, at no cost to the patient³
- Millions more vaccines are being procured for delivery by mid-2023⁴
- Nationally, 1.7 million courses of tecovirimat (TPOXX) continue to be made available for free³

Community Perspective

What would help you feel more confident about approaching a patient who you suspect has MPox?

“It would be great to have some sort of physical, printed resource that I could refer to when trying to remember the protocol for testing and treatment [for suspected MPox]!” – Megan Mogerley, FNP

What hardships has the queer community faced when seeking treatment or vaccination for MPox?

“When providers are not as affirming as can be, such as asking questions that are not inclusive to queer, non-binary patients (especially people of color), that can be really detrimental to their healthcare [beyond MPox], and simply put, that patient might not come back.” – Richard Elliot, Health and Wellness Coordinator, Pride Center of VT

Intervention and Methodology

- Created and delivered a presentation to providers at the South End Health Center in Burlington, VT
- Included signs, symptoms of MPox, as well as updated guidance on vaccination and treatment



Results and Response

Feedback obtained from providers at the South End Health Clinic (Community Health Centers of Burlington), including Jacob Shaw MD, Adrienne Jarvis MD, Mary Anne Kohn AGNP, Megan Mogerley FNP, Alexis Purdy PA, Elizabeth Fuccillo PA

- *"I really appreciated seeing the evolution of [monkeypox] skin lesions over time!" - Mary Anne Kohn*
- *"It's great to have the steps of the testing protocol laid out and easily accessible - thanks!" - Megan Mogerley*

Opportunity for improvement

- Further elaboration of antiviral treatment, tecovirimat, including route of administration and how to obtain

Evaluation of Effectiveness and Limitations

Effectiveness

- Providers were grateful for a review of MPox signs and symptoms
- They reported feeling more comfortable and confident with MPox diagnosis and treatment

Limitations

- Unable to fully evaluate effectiveness of presentation due to low sample size of patients and limited time to measure outcomes
- Difficult to objectively evaluate whether queer/non-binary patients feel more accepted or welcomed when seeking MPox-related care

Future Recommendations

- Update information as the MPox situation in Vermont and USA evolves, including testing protocols and/or vaccine recommendations
- Consider surveying providers on comfort levels of treating MPox, both before and after education
- Provide further examples of MPox skin lesions, particularly on different skin tones

References

1. O'Shea J, Filardo TD, Morris SB, Weiser J, Petersen B, Brooks JT. Interim Guidance for Prevention and Treatment of Monkeypox in Persons with HIV Infection – United States, August 2022. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2022;71:1023-1028. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7132e4>
2. Diamond, D. (2022, August 5). *Monkeypox is 'a public health emergency,' U.S. health secretary declares.* The Washington Post. Retrieved September 27, 2022, from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/08/04/monkeypox-public-health-emergency-united-states-becerra/>
3. Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA). "Biden-Harris Administration Makes Hundreds of Thousands More Vaccine Doses Available to Support Monkeypox Response." *HHS.gov*, 15 Aug. 2022, <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/08/15/biden-harris-administration-makes-hundreds-of-thousands-more-vaccine-doses-available-support-monkeypox-response.html>.
4. Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA). "Fact Sheet: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Response to the Monkeypox Outbreak." *HHS.gov*, 17 Aug. 2022, <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/07/21/fact-sheet-us-department-of-health-and-human-services-response-to-the-monkeypox-outbreak.html>.

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Consented

Name: Richard Elliot

Name: Megan Mogerley, FNP

Did NOT Consent

Name:

Name: