

CROI ICAR

CROI Affiliated Event for
Italian Young Investigators

AWARDS 2024



CHAIRS:

F. Kirchhoff

(Ulm, Germany, EU)

D. Margolis

(Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA)



Denver, Colorado

March 4th, 2024

h 06.00 - 07.30 pm

CROI 31st CONFERENCE ON
Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections
MARCH 3-6 2024 DENVER, COLORADO

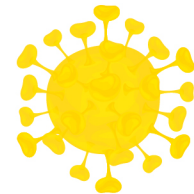
ICAR 16th NATIONAL CONGRESS
Italian Conference on AIDS and Antiviral Research
JUNE 19-21 ROME, ITALY



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Jarisch-Herxheimer Reaction in Patients With Syphilis With or Without Prior Antibiotic Prophylaxis

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“Luigi Sacco” University Hospital - Milan, Italy

Background

JARISCH-HERXHEIMER REACTION (JHR):

- ❖ within 24 hours after penicillin or other treponemicidal treatment for syphilis
- ❖ incidence 9-31% when proactively investigated (up to 56% in early syphilis)

AIM OF OUR STUDY

To determine the incidence of proactively investigated JHR in individuals with or without prior antibiotic prophylaxis



Methods

POPULATION:

- ❖ Diagnosis of syphilis
- ❖ Undergoing penicillin treatment from April to September 2023

STUDY DESIGN:

First penicillin dose → 24 hours → Phone call

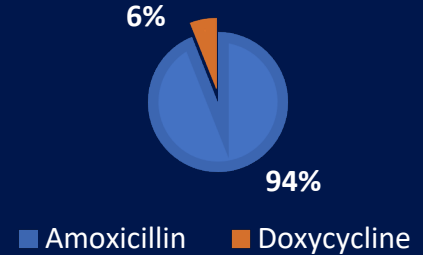
- (1) Occurrence of JHR-related symptoms
at least one of fever, chills, new or worsening rash, headache and myalgia
- (2) Exposure to treponemicidal antibiotics
at least a 48-hours course of antibiotics in the 7 days before the first penicillin dose



Results

	Overall n = 95
Age , median (IQR)	41 (33-50)
Male , n (%)	93 (98)
HIV infection , n (%) HIV-RNA < 50 cp/mL, n (%)	78 (82) 61 (78)
Epidemiology , n (%) MSM Transgender women Heterosexuals	70 (74) 14 (15) 11 (11)
Syphilis stage , n (%) Primary Secondary Early latent Late latent Neurosyphilis	5 (5) 11 (12) 39 (41) 39 (41) 1 (1)
Previous penicillin treatment , n (%)	50 (53)
RPR titer , median (IQR)	1:8 (1:2-1:16)

ANTIBIOTIC EXPOSURE: 75%



JHR INCIDENCE

Overall



6.3% (95% CI 2.3-13.7%)

Early syphilis group



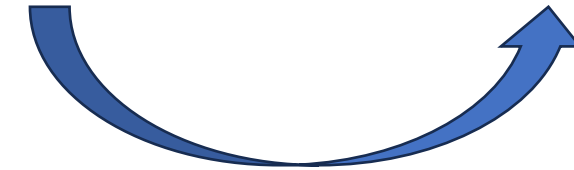
7.3% (95% CI 1.1-10.2%)



Conclusions

LOWER INCIDENCE OF JHR
(even lower in early syphilis)

Antibiotic
prophylaxis



Potential confounders (lower RPR titer)

Future experimental studies with a control group and a larger sample size are needed



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