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**Socio-demographic factors and their correlations with *Trichomonas vaginalis* infection in women attending a central sexually transmitted disease clinic**

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Given the number of Trichomoniasis infections observed in Sri Lanka in previous studies, an analysis of socio-demographic characteristics of patients would be relevant in prevention. Data was collected with an interviewer administered questionnaire from 359 newly registered women at a tertiary level sexually transmitted disease clinic over a period of 18 months. Trichomoniasis was diagnosed by culture of vaginal swabs collected from posterior fornix. Data was analyzed using SPSS version 15®.

The prevalence of Trichomoniasis in the sample was 7.2% [95% Confidence Interval (CI): 4.24-9.56]. Of those who tested positive for Trichomoniasis, 76% were in the age group of 21-45 years, 68% were married and living with spouse and 60% were unemployed. Being diagnosed with Trichomoniasis was associated with being married [Odds ratio (OR), 1.6 ; CI, 0.56 - 4.41], age over 33 years (OR= 1.3, CI, 0.55-2.9), being employed (OR, 1.3; CI, 0.56 – 2.94), having an education of less than ten years at school (OR, 3.0; CI 1.28- 7.26) and not using condoms during the last sexual act (OR 2.0, CI 0.84-4.86). The risk was less among commercial sex workers (OR, 0.3, CI: 0.14-0.85), those with multiple sexual partners (OR, 0.2; CI; 0.073 -0.408) and extramarital sexual relationships (OR, 0.3; CI, 0.128 - 0.733). Protozoal sexually transmitted infections are on the decline in Sri Lanka and the prevalence of infection was low in this sample. Education on safe sex and recognition of symptoms is currently targeted at high risk groups such as commercial sex workers. Extending these programmes to the rest of the community will further reduce the risk of transmission.

**Acknowledgements:** Financial assistance by IRQUE grant, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo is acknowledged.