



Syphilis Follow-Up in British Columbia

There has recently been discussion on the discrepancy between the BC recommendations for follow-up syphilis serology (repeat RPR blood tests) and those in the Canadian Guidelines. The table below summarizes these follow up intervals, along with those recommended by CDC Atlanta.

Follow Up Serology After Treatment	BC Recommendations	2006 Canadian Guidelines	Oct. 2007 Update to Canadian Guidelines	2006 CDC Atlanta Guidelines
<i>Primary, secondary, early latent</i>	6 and 12 months	1, 3, 6, and 12 months	1*, 3, 6, and 12 months (*some experts recommend follow up testing at 1 month after treatment to ensure that non-treponemal test titre is not rising)	6 and 12 months (excludes early latent)
<i>Late latent, tertiary</i>	12 and 24 months	12 and 24 months	12 and 24 months	6, 12 and 24 months (includes early latent, but excludes tertiary)
<i>HIV-infected (any stage)</i>	3, 6, 9 and 12 months	1, 3, 6, 12 and 24 months and annually thereafter	1*, 3, 6, 12 and 24 months and annually thereafter (*some experts recommend follow up testing at 1 month after treatment to ensure that non-treponemal test titre is not rising)	3, 6, 9, 12 and 24 months for primary and secondary; 6, 12, 18 and 24 months for latent

The BC recommendations are anchored in syphilis expertise from the BC Centre for Disease Control STI clinic physicians, and are more closely aligned with the 2006 Sexually Transmitted Guidelines from CDC Atlanta. The BC recommendations are based on the BCCDC STI clinic physicians experience that testing at 1 month after treatment provides minimal value into syphilis management, and that testing of HIV negative clients with infectious syphilis at 3 months post-treatment is of limited value.



References:

1. Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections, 2006 edition. Ottawa, ON: Public Health Agency of Canada, 2006.
2. October 2007 update for Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections, 2006 edition -www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/std-mts/sti_2006/sti_intro2006_e.html
3. Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, 2006, Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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