

IMPACT OF DATING APPS ON SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIOR AND STD DIAGNOSIS AMONG FOREIGN PEOPLE TRAVELING IN ITALY FOR SHORT-TERM VACATION/STUDY/WORK.

Objective: To investigate the effect of using dating apps on sexual risk behavior and STD diagnosis among foreign non-resident people moving to Italy for short-term vacation/study/work (1 week-2 years).

Methods: 280 consecutive non-resident patients coming from 4 Continents admitted to an outpatient clinic in Rome, Italy, requiring sexual transmitted disease (STD) testing were preliminarily interviewed regarding their symptoms, sexual behavior and use of dating apps. Patients' clinico-epidemiological data were matched with STD test results.

Results: VDRL was more frequent positive in male ($p < 0.001$), whereas Chlamydia positive test on urine resulted more frequent in female ($p < 0.001$). Women performed STD test closer to the last risky intercourse (< 1 months) ($p = 0.007$). More men than women declared their homosexuality (28% vs 3%, $p < 0.001$). More men than women declared access to prostitution (12% vs 2%, $p = 0.003$). A strong tendency towards significance resulted in association between increasing number of sexual partners during the last 12 months and being positive to Chlamydia and/or Gonorrhea testing ($p = 0.064$). Regarding use of dating apps: 1) men used more dating apps than women (41% vs 27%, $p = 0.027$); 2) use of dating apps was more widespread among people coming from South America (53%) and Asia (46%); 3) use of dating apps correlated with higher number of sexual partner during the last 12 months ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusions: Use of dating apps was associated with increased number of sexual partners during the last 12 months. Increased number of sexual partners tended ($p = 0.064$) to be associated with higher Chlamydia and/or Gonorrhea test positivity.

Impact of dating apps on sexual risk behavior and STD diagnosis among foreign people traveling in Italy for short-term vacation/study/work.