



Beyond Antibiotics – A Preventative Approach to Infectious Diseases
Monday 21 November 2022

Monkeypox – A new sexually transmitted infection? – Dr Michael Marks

Question: What explains the very rapid decline in MPX cases in UK during late summer - before widespread vaccination? Is it all just behaviour change, or any degree of natural immunity developing?

Answer: It is likely a mix of

- a) Behaviour change – we have also seen reductions in other STI diagnoses in high risk populations (likely the main factor)
- b) Infection induced immunity – because transmission is within a very tight sexual network some modelling suggests that infection induced immunity in the highest risk could play a role.

Q2: Question: Has there been transmission into rodent populations in the countries involved in the current epidemic?

Answer: Transmission to a dog has been documented. Im not sure to what extent people have actually tested rodents but don't believe transmission to them has been shown.