

Table SI. Comparison of the doxycycline and the penicillin treatment group (n=202 cases)

Characteristics	Doxycycline (n=127)	Penicillin (n=75)	p-value
Age, median (range)	40 (20–83)	39 (24–61)	NS
Female	1 (1)	1 (1)	NS
Male	126 (99)	74 (99)	NS
MSM	121 (96)	70 (95)	NS
Danish citizen	106 (83)	54 (72)	NS
Syphilis stage			
Primary	12 (9)	8 (11)	NS
Secondary	75 (59)	42 (56)	NS
Early latent	18 (14)	10 (13)	NS
Late latent	21 (17)	13 (17)	NS
Relapse	1 (1)	0 (0)	NS
Unknown	0 (0)	2 (3)	NS
Infected in Denmark	76 (60)	39 (72)	NS
History of syphilis	66 (52)	33 (44)	NS
CD4 cell count, cells/ $\mu$ l, median (IQR)	480 (340–630)	430 (270–638)	NS
$\leq$ 200	7 (6)	9 (12)	0.03
$>$ 200	84 (66)	34 (45)	0.03
Unknown	36 (28)	32 (43)	0.045
HIV RNA, log <sub>10</sub> copies/ml, mean (SD)	2.11 (1.58)	2.34 (1.80)	NS
HIV RNA, copies/ml			
$\leq$ 200	61 (48)	28 (37)	NS
$>$ 200–100,000	22 (17)	11 (15)	NS
$\geq$ 100,000	6 (5)	6 (8)	NS
Unknown	38 (30)	30 (40)	NS
cART	96 (76)	44 (59)	0.009
Coinfections			
Hepatitis B virus infection	19 (15)	6 (8)	NS
Hepatitis C virus infection	15 (12)	5 (7)	NS
Gonorrhoea	1 (1)	2 (3)	NS
Chlamydia	4 (3)	3 (4)	NS
Median RPR titre at time of diagnosis	64	64	NS

Data are presented as *n* (%) unless otherwise indicated. *p*-values compare the doxycycline treatment group with the penicillin treatment group using  $\chi^2$  or Fisher's exact test for categorical variables and the Mann–Whitney test or *t*-test for continuous variables.

NS: not statistically significant; MSM: men who have sex with men; IQR: interquartile range; SD: standard deviation; cART: combination antiretroviral therapy; RPR: rapid plasma reagin.