

Chlamydia trachomatis Infection in Pregnant Women

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Abstract

Introduction: Chlamydial infections are the most common sexually transmitted diseases with highest rates of morbidity in different societies. Chlamydia trachomatis is a known causative agent for premature rupture of membranes (PROM), preterm labor, miscarriage, low birth weight and neonatal death, and forms a copious burden of disease in many countries. This study aims to evaluate the prevalence, outcome and risk factors of chlamydial infections.

Materials and Methods: This cross-sectional, descriptive-analytical study was done on 1114 pregnant women in their 11th to 32nd week of gestation who attended the hospitals affiliated to Tehran University of Medical Sciences during March 2007 to March 2009. Serum levels of IgG anti-chlamydial antibody were measured by ELIZA method, upon taking a thorough medical history.

Results: Positive results for chlamydia IgG were seen in 2.9% of the cases. Chlamydia infection was 2.3 times greater in multiparous women compared to primigravids, (95% CI, 1.1- 4.8). Chorioamnionitis and neonatal death were respectively 4.7 (p=0.027) and 11.6 (p=0.008) times more prevalent in IgG-positive group compared to women without the infection.

Conclusion: A relatively low prevalence of chlamydial infection was observed in the studied population. Further studies in different groups of pregnant women, especially in cases attending private health sector, are recommended to be done in order to justify the necessity of routine Chlamydia screening in pregnancy and the obligation for preventive care measurements in Iranian pregnant women.

Key Words: Chlamydia trachomatis, Complication, Neonatal death, Pregnancy, Serology, Sexually transmitted infection.

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