

Prevalence of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* in Pregnant Women of Sabzevar-Iran

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Background & Objectives: *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* is one of the important bacterial sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in women, which can cause developing PID, ectopic pregnancy, scarring, and infertility. Pregnant women are as a high-risk group for acquiring and transmitting gonorrhea from mother to child. During childbirth, infants contract the infection in the birth canal resulting in bilateral conjunctivitis, which can lead to blindness. Therefore, this study was set up to determine the prevalence of the infection with *N. gonorrhoeae* in the pregnant women in Sabzevar (Northeast of Iran).

Methods: In this cross-sectional study of 203 pregnant women attending (Shahid Aldaghi) health clinic, *N. gonorrhoeae* was detected in first-catch urine sample (10ml) of eligible participants by PCR methods. Demographic characteristics and risk factors were obtained from each subject through interviews.

Results: *N. gonorrhoeae* was detected in 12 women (5.91%). Rates of infection did not differ significantly by patient's characteristics such as age, history of abortion, and history of STIs.

Conclusion: Gonococcal prevalence rates ranging from 1.1- 11.7% have been reported in pregnant women in other countries. In addition, there are one study from Iran, which reported no infection in 170 pregnant women and 209 infertile women in Tehran. However, it is still considered that more researches are needed in different cities of Iran with more sample sizes.

Keywords: *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*; Prevalence; Pregnant Women; Iran