

## Hepatitis E Infection in Pregnant Women in Gorgan, Iran

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**Background & Objectives:** Hepatitis E virus is cause of gastrointestinal and self limited form of hepatitis in adult. It is not going to chronic form in usual and disseminates oral-fecal. Its fulminated form can lead to a mortality rate of about 20-25% during pregnancies. This study aimed to assess the seroepidemiology of HEV in pregnant women in Gorgan, Iran.

**Methods:** In this cross-sectional descriptive study during 2009-2010, 697 pregnant women ages 15-47 old were recruited. Demographic data was recorded in the checklists and 5 ml blood sample was taken. ELISA methods (DIA.pro-italy) was done to evaluate the anti-HEV total antibody. Data were entered into SPSS software version 16. Chi-square, fisher and T-test were used to analyze data.

**Results:** Among the studied subjects, 7/6% had anti-HEV antibodies. Age, level of education and gestational age were showed significant relationship with HEV seropositivity ( $P \leq 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** According to the results it seems that HEV is endemic in our country and pregnant women and their babies are more at risk of HEV infection and complication due to it.

**Keywords:** Hepatitis E; Pregnant Women; Gorgan; Iran

