

Universal screening of Group B Streptococcus in pregnant women at Hospital Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah (HSAAS), Serdang: Proportion and association of socio-demographic factors on maternal and perinatal outcomes

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Group B Streptococcus (GBS), is a Gram-positive commensal bacterium of the rectovaginal area in women. Pregnant women carrying GBS can experience chronic, intermittent, or transient colonisation, contributing to issues such as urinary tract infections, premature rupture of membranes, and preterm birth. The prevalence of GBS invasive diseases in pregnant women is reported to be double that in nonpregnant women. The transmission of GBS from colonised mothers to infants during or just before delivery can result in early or late-onset invasive neonatal GBS disease with potentially poor perinatal outcomes. Current practices advise screening only high-risk women, not universally. **Objectives:** This study determines the proportion of GBS among pregnant women at Hospital Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah (HSAAS). It explores the association of socio-demographic factors with maternal and perinatal outcomes in GBS-positive mothers. **Materials and Methods:** A cross-sectional study comprising 213 women with singleton pregnancy in HSAAS underwent universal GBS screening, and the maternal and perinatal outcomes were evaluated. A set of study proformas, the delivery book, and the PUTRA-HIS database were utilised for data collection. **Results:** The proportion of GBS infection among pregnant women screened at HSAAS was 41.3%. Socio-demographic factors, including maternal age, gestational age, parity, Diabetes Mellitus, educational and socioeconomic level, had no association with GBS status. However, preterm prelabour rupture of membranes (PPROM), prelabour rupture of membranes (PROM) and neonatal infections showed significant association with GBS status. **Conclusion:** The proportion of GBS colonisation among pregnant women at HSAAS is considerable, highlighting the importance of universal screening.