

The prevalence of bacterial vaginosis in women at risk of preterm birth and pregnancy outcomes following treatment: A retrospective observational study

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Bacterial vaginosis (BV) is a common vaginal infection among pregnant women, with reported prevalence rates ranging from 6.4% to 16%. There is a lack of guideline recommendations supporting routine screening for BV in pregnant women at increased risk for preterm delivery. **Objectives:** This study aimed to determine the prevalence of BV in pregnant women at risk of preterm birth or presenting with BV-related symptoms, and to compare pregnancy and neonatal outcomes between BV-positive women (after treatment) and BV-negative counterparts. **Materials and Methods:** This retrospective observational study included pregnant women at risk for preterm birth because of prior delivery before 37 weeks, preterm prelabour rupture of membranes, or suspected preterm labour, as well as those with symptoms suggestive of BV. All participants were screened using the BVBLUE® test kit. BV-positive women received oral metronidazole 400 mg twice daily for 7 days. Pregnancy and neonatal outcomes were subsequently analysed for all participants. **Results:** Among 217 subjects, 24 (11.1%) tested positive for BV and 193 (88.9%) tested negative. There were no significant demographic differences between the two groups. Key pregnancy and neonatal outcomes, including rates of preterm birth, low birth weight, APGAR scores, and NICU admissions, were comparable between BV-positive (treated) and BV-negative groups. **Conclusion:** In this cohort, pregnancy outcomes in BV-positive women who received treatment were similar to those in BV-negative women. These findings suggest that targeted screening and timely treatment for BV in high-risk populations may contribute to favourable pregnancy outcomes and may help reduce risks associated with preterm birth.