

Comparison of the characteristics of hepatitis B surface antigen positive and negative pregnant women in a Thai provincial hospital antenatal care clinic

Prapan Sabsanong¹, Nicolas Salvadori², Nicole Ngo-Giang-Huong^{2,3}, Paporn Mongkolwat², Pra-ornsuda Sukrakanchana², Suriyan Tanasri², Gonzague Jourdain^{2,3}

¹Obstetrics & Gynecology Department, Samut Prakan Provincial Hospital, Thailand

²UMI 174-PHPT, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) and Chiang Mai University (CMU), Thailand

³Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, United States

Abstract:

Background & Aims

In Thailand, hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) testing is part of routine antenatal screening. We described the socio-demographics and clinical characteristics of pregnant women screened at Samut Prakan Provincial Hospital antenatal care clinic (ANC) and assessed the association between these characteristics and pregnant women's hepatitis B virus (HBV) status.

Methods

Pregnant women aged ≥ 18 years followed at the ANC between August 1, 2013 and June 30, 2015 were included. HBsAg results were recorded during the screening phase of a clinical trial, as well as socio-demographics, medical and obstetrical history and current pregnancy characteristics. The association between these characteristics and pregnant women's HBV status was evaluated using the Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test or Fisher's exact test.

Results

Data from 18 HBsAg positive and 97 negative pregnant women were available. The proportion of complete records was lower for HBsAg negative women. At the screening visit, median age was 27.1 years (interquartile range: 22.4 to 31.5), height 157 cm (152 to 160) and weight 61 kg (55 to 68), with no significant differences between groups. HBsAg positive women were more likely to know before this pregnancy their HBV status than HBsAg negative women (33% versus 12%, $p=0.04$) and to know their previous live offsprings' HBV status (55% versus 23%, $p=0.06$). However, they were more likely to ignore their partner's HBV status (17% versus 52%, $p=0.009$). There was a trend for HBsAg positive women to have a partner known to be also HBsAg positive (33% versus 2%, $p=0.11$).

Conclusion

HBV chronic infection was not associated with any characteristics, which underlines the need for systematic screening. The HBsAg screening program for pregnant women is the only program in Thailand to target a general population. Testing partner(s) systematically for HBsAg, especially when a woman is infected, could increase the impact of this program.