

Asymptomatic Bacterurea in Pregnancy, its Prevalence among Asymptomatic Patient with more Than 5 Pus Cell on Microscopy and its Obstetrical Outcome in Early Vs Late Detected Group

SHAZIA SAEED¹, NASREEN AKTHER², FARZANA SABIR³, ASHFAQ AHMAD⁴, SARA AKRAM⁵

ABSTRACT

Background: Routine urine culture in pregnancy is costly and may not be practically possible on all pregnant patients in poor resource countries so if appropriate selection of patients after routine microscopy is done it may reduce the burden of diseases as well as be cost effective.

Aim: To determine the prevalence, the most common causative organism and obstetrical outcome in terms of pre-eclampsia (PET), preterm labour and preterm premature rupture of membrane (PPROM) and symptomatic urinary tract infection (UTI) in asymptomatic bacteruria in early versus late detected group.

Place and Duration. This study was conducted in Divisional Headquarter Tertiary Care Teaching Hospital, Mirpur Azad Jammu Kashmir from 1st January 2017 to 1st January 2018.

Methodology: This is a prospective cohort study. Total 100 pregnant women were selected for urine culture having WBC >5 per high field on microscopic examination. 50 patients in early detected group (Group A) before 23 weeks of gestation versus late detected group (Group B) between 30 to 34 weeks gestation after exclusion criteria. Treatment given according to sensitivity report. They were followed till delivery and incidence of preterm, PPRM, symptomatic UTI and PET were recorded in these two groups.

Results: In early detected group asymptomatic bacteruria (ASB) was found in 7 out of 50 patients (14%) and no significant difference in incidence of preterm labour, PPRM and PET in ASB positives versus ASB negative women. In second group it was found in 9 out of 50 (18%) cases with significant increase in preterm and PET PPRM in spite of giving treatment.

Conclusion: Prevalence of ASB is high. Early detection and treatment will reduce incidence of preterm labour, PPRM and PET with ASB positive women so it should be included in routine antenatal care for best fetal/maternal outcome.

Keywords: Urinary tract infection, Asymptomatic bacteruria, Midstream urine for culture sensitivity, Preterm labour, Pyelonephritis, PET.

INTRODUCTION

Untreated bacteriuria during pregnancy is associated with adverse maternal and perinatal outcomes. It is financially effective to screen for bacteriuria if the prevalence rate is 2% or more. The prevalence rate in this study was 14% to 18%. There are a number of anatomical and physiological changes in pregnancy responsible for ASB in pregnancy. ASB defined as presence of more than 10 power 5 microorganism per ml of urine.¹ It is the most common bacterial infection in pregnancy. Its incidence is 2 to 3%.^{2,3}

Maternal and fetal complication like PTL, PET, PPRM, symptomatic UTI, pyelonephritis are the most common complications.⁴ In addition postpartum endometritis is another worst complication of it.⁵

Although in developed countries screening for ASB in 1st trimester is standard of care and role of specific antimicrobial therapy is well established⁶ but there is no such established result on role of antimicrobial therapy in ASB in developing countries. There is reasonable evidence that ASB is wide spread in Pakistan and our neighbouring country India.^{7,8,9,10,11}

The antenatal urine culture routine for all pregnant women is expensive and not feasible in numerous parts of the developing world. Determination of mothers for screening with risk factors may diminish the necessity of urine culture for every pregnant woman and may be utilized as an appropriate alternative strategy of management. Gestational diabetes, past urinary tract infection, multiparity, advanced maternal age, lower education level, advanced gestational age and lower financial status have been reported as risk factors in some studies and conflicting results have been obtained from different studies.^{5,6}

METHODS

This cohort study was carried out in out-patient antenatal clinic in collaboration with Urogynaecology OPD in DHQ Mirpur AJK. Asymptomatic patients till 23 weeks group A (n=50) and between 30 to 34 weeks in group B (n=50) were enrolled in this study after informed written consent. They were labelled as group A (Early detected group), ASB positive and ASB negative women. Group B (Late detected group), ASB positive and ASB negative women. Pregnant ladies with history of symptomatic UTI, previous history of preterm labour, medical disorder and congenital anomalies and twin pregnancy, IUGR, PIH, PET, recurrent UTI and diabetes were excluded from study. MSU were sent for culture sensitivity in patients having more than 5 pus cells on microscopy and treatment given in patients with

^{1,2} Associate Professor, Gynaecology & Obstetrics.

³ Senior Registrar, Gynaecology & Obstetrics.

⁴ Associate Professor, Urology.

⁵ Assistant Professor, Gynaecology & Obstetrics.

Gynaecology & Obstetrics, DHQ Teaching Hospital, Mirpur Azad Jammu Kashmir.

Correspondence to: Dr. Shazia Saeed, Associate Professor Email: raja0508@yahoo.com, Cell #: 0344-6761181

culture positive patient according to sensitivity report. After treatment culture was repeated if not clear give another 1 week therapy. They were followed till delivery and incidence of symptomatic bacteriuria, pyelonephritis, preeclampsia, toxemia, preterm, PPROM and PET were recorded in both groups. Number of cases lost from follow up with AFB positive in both group dropped from study.

RESULTS

Asymptomatic bacteriuria was found in 7 out of 50 patients (14%) in group A, no significant difference found regarding its complication in ASB positive and ASB negative women after treatment in group A. Fifteen out of 50 patients (30%) in group B were detected as ASB positive which is statistically not significant ($p = 0.40$). Two patients from group A (4%) and one from group B (2%) were lost from follow up as ASB positive and excluded from study. Four out of 5 patients in Group A with positive AFB developed fetomaternal complication as compared to group B (Table 1). In both groups 19 (19%) patients were developed complications. Seven (7%) patients out of 19 developed preterm labour with rupture membrane, 4 developed PET in both groups, 3 (3%) developed symptomatic UTI, and 2 (2%) patients were developed pyelonephritis (Table 2).

The most common causative organism in both groups were *E. coli* 60%, *Proteus* 10%, *Klebsiella* 10%, *Coliform* 5%, *Citrobacter* 5% and 10% *Staphylococcus aureus* and 60% sensitive to Augmentin 20% to imipenem, piperacillin tazobactam cefotaxime and 20% to nitrofurantoin.

Table 1: Association of asymptomatic bacteriuria in both groups (n=100)

Group A		Group B	
%ve	-ve	+ve	-ve
7(14%)	43(86%)	15(30%)	35(70%)

P value 0.40

Table 2: Frequency of early detected complications vs late detected complications in both groups

Complications	Group A (n=48)		Group B (n=49)	
	n	%	n	%
Symptomatic UTI	1	2.0	2	2.0
Pyelonephritis	0	0	2	4.0
PET	1	2.0	3	6.0
PPROM	1	2.0	2	4.0
PTL	2	6.0	5	10.0

ED: Early detected; LD: Late detected; Neg: Negative; UTI: Urinary tract infection; PET: Pre-eclampsia toxemia; PPROM: Preterm premature rupture membrane; PTL: Pre-term labour

DISCUSSION

A cost evaluation study reported that screening for pyelonephritis is appropriate when the prevalence of asymptomatic bacteriuria is more conspicuous than 2%. We saw 14% prevalence in this study in first two trimester and 30% in last trimester. So screening of each antenatal woman for asymptomatic bacteriuria by a quantitative urine culture is recommended.¹² *E. coli* were the most widely recognized pathogens (60%) related with asymptomatic bacteriuria in our study. *Escherichia coli* is reported to be the commonest by other researcher.^{13,14} The risk of UTI from *E. coli* is most common because of anatomical and

functional changes that occur during pregnancy and these are the most common bacteria in vaginal and rectal area.¹³

The treatment of asymptomatic bacteriuria has been seemed to decrease the rate of pyelonephritis preterm PET and PPROM in pregnancy and along these lines the screening for treatment of asymptomatic bacteriuria has transformed into a standard of obstetrical consideration.¹⁵ When we compare our study to this study early detection has less complication with detection as compared to delayed detection in spite of giving treatment in second group.

Oral nitrofurantoin is a decent anti-microbial decision for treatment of pregnant ladies with asymptomatic bacteriuria and all strains confined in this fundamental examination demonstrated affectability to co amoxiclav piperacillin tazobactam, amikacin and nitrofurantoin. Despite the fact that ampicillin and oral cephalosporins are valuable and safe options with a lower occurrence of unfavorable impacts, a noteworthy number of studies indicated protection from these anti-infection agents. Accordingly the anti-microbial affectability examples ought to be utilized in deciding treatment as improper treatment has been in charge of repeats of asymptomatic bacteriuria with advancement of intricacy later on.¹⁶ The pregnant women with intense pyelonephritis may continue significant complications, augmentin is also considered safe during pregnancy and my 7 out of 12 patients were sensitive to augmentin and only single course for 7 days able to eradicate bacteria. Villar et al, study highlighted obstetrical complications like preterm labor, ARDS, sepsis, stillbirth and haematologic abnormalities in asymptomatic bacteriuria.¹⁷ It is important to screen every single pregnant woman for the presence of bacteriuria at first pre-birth visit, ideally in the first trimester and the individuals who are positive should be followed up solidly after treatment because as many as one third will encounter a recurrence.¹⁸ After completion of about fourteen days treatment the urine culture is required to ensure response to treatment. If the urine culture and sensitivity report is positive so a recurrent course of antibiotics is recommended.¹⁹ It is also advised that patients with at least two episodes of bacteriuria are followed up every month to repeat cultures until delivery to ensure urine sterility in the pregnancy time period.

As far as obstetrical outcome concerned there was no significant difference between AFB positive after getting treatment and AFB negative women in group A while in Group B. Five out of 14 patients develop preterm labour with rupture membrane in 2 patients, 3 developed PET and 1 patient turned out into symptomatic UTI and 2 patients develop pyelonephritis in spite of giving treatment in AFB positive women in group B. Another study conducted in north India also showed three times more complication even after getting treatment in late detected group.²⁰

CONCLUSION

Prevalence of ASB is common in AKB. Although routine urine culture is gold standard in antenatal clinic for best fetomaternal outcome in developed countries but poor resource countries like Pakistan at least all women who showed pus cell more than 5 on microscopic in all three trimester should undergo for culture sensitivity to avoid

fetomaternal complication associated with UTI as delayed detection significantly effect fetomaternal outcome.

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