

Genital Infections Among Antenatal Care Attendees in Cape Verde

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ABSTRACT

In a cross-sectional study, 350 pregnant Capeverdean women were examined to assess the prevalence of Chlamydia trachomatis infection (CT), Neisseria gonorrhoeae infection (NG) and Bacterial vaginosis (BV). Among various analytic methods used, the polymerase chain reaction PCR (for NG, CT) yielded a higher detection rate than did direct microscopy or culture (NG), or direct immuno-fluorescence (CT). Since the PCR analytic of air-dried specimens is not hampered by harsh storage and transport conditions, it could serve to validate other detection methods where laboratory facilities are suboptimal. Among sociodemographic risk factors young age, and currently living alone, were significantly associated with infection. (*Afr J Reprod Health* 1998;(2)1:32–40)

RÉSUMÉ

Infections génitales chez les femmes recevant des soins prénataux au Cap-Vert. Dans le cadre d'une étude transversale, 350 femmes capverdiennes étaient examinées afin d'évaluer parmi elles, la prévalence d'infection par la trachomose chlamydia (TC), par la blennorragie Neisseria (BN) et enfin, par la Vaginite Bactérienne (VB). Une analyse des méthodes utilisées a révélé que la méthode de la Chaîne de Réaction Polymère-CRP, (BN, TC) a un taux de détection plus élevé que la méthode de la microscopie directe, de la culture bactérienne, ou encore, de l'immuno-fluorescence directe. Compte-tenu du fait que l'analyse par CRP de spécimens asséchés par air n'est pas affectée par de dures conditions d'entreposage et de transport, elle pourrait servir à appuyer d'autres méthodes de détection dans des laboratoires ne fonctionnant pas à leur meilleure capacité. Parmi les facteurs socio-démographiques de risque, le jeune (âge et le statut de personne vivant seule), étaient associés de manière significative à l'infection. (*Rev Afr Santé Reprod* 1998;2(1):32–40)

KEY WORDS: *Pregnancy, gonorrhoeae, chlamydia, bacterial vaginosis, PCR*

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was less than 4 US dollars. In settings where laboratory facilities are suboptimal, air-dried specimens admit PCR analysis as a tool for validation of other detection methods.

In summary, the detection rates of bacterial STDs in this population of pregnant women were similar to those presented in previous reports from low risk groups, both in industrialised and developing countries. The infected women were characterised by young age, currently not living in a stable union, and having less experience of contraceptives. The study underlines the need for improved education on safe sex and contraceptives, especially among younger age groups. When no detection method for CT is available locally, and when the sensitivity of NG diagnosis is poor, as in our study, algorithmic treatment based on signs and symptoms may be considered. Prevalence surveys of STD agents, using nucleic acid amplification technology at local or distant laboratories, for air-dried, easily transported specimens, is a promising analysis alternative in settings where laboratory facilities are scarce.

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