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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HYPOCALCAEMIA AND HIGH PARITY AMONGST ANTENATAL CLINIC ATTENDEES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT TEACHING HOSPITAL

KalioDGB¹, Eli²,³, OrluweneCG⁴, OkaguaKE¹, BriggsNCT⁵, WarisoKT⁶

¹Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Rivers State University Teaching Hospital, Port Harcourt, Nigeria
²,³Mother and Baby Care Global Foundation
²Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Nigeria
⁴Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, River State University, Nigeria
⁵Department of Community Medicine, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria
⁶Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

Background: Hypocalcaemia have been linked to high parity in a number of research work although there are conflicting explanations. Some of the reasons include pregnant women not recovering from negative calcium balance after ill timed pregnancies and over confidence in taking recommended calcium supplements in the index pregnancy because previous confinements were complication free.

Aim: To determine the relationship between hypocalcaemia and high parity amongst antenatal clinic (ANC) attendees at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH).

Method: The study was a comparative cross-sectional study. Ten milliliters of blood sample were taken from each of the 90 pregnant women that met the inclusion criteria for the study. The plasma isolated from each woman was analyzed for calcium and albumin using calcium-albumin kit (Lab 7225 spectrophotometer set Bran Scientific and Instrument Company, England). All results were entered into a questionnaire (Appendix 1) and analysis was done with a personal computer using the SPSS for windows version 16. Categorical variables were expressed as absolute numbers and percentages and significant difference was determined using the Chi square test or Fisher exact test where appropriate, while continuous variables were presented as means with standard deviations and significant differences were determined with the student “t” test. The level of significant difference was set as p < 0.05.
CONCLUSION
The study revealed that hypocalcaemia was commoner amongst ANC attendees with high parity. Thus calcium supplementation should be recommended during pregnancy with high parity and those at risk of hypocalcaemia.

Results: Ninety pregnant women were recruited for the study. The mean age was 29.8 years and the median parity was 2. At recruitment 17 (18.9%) of the multiparas had hypocalcaemia compared with 6 (6.7%) primigravidae with hypocalcaemia. In the third trimester 37 (41.1%) of multiparas had hypocalcaemia while 17 (18.9%) primigravidae had hypocalcaemia. In this study 54 (60%) of those with high parity had hypocalcaemia compared with 23 (25.6%) of primigravidae with hypocalcaemia. ANC attendees with normocalcaemia were 13 (14.4%).

Key words: Relationship, Hypocalcaemia, High parity, ANC attendees, UPTH.
AWARNESS OF TUBERCULOSIS AMONGST ANTENATAL CLINIC ATTENDEES AT A TERTIARY HOSPITAL: A NIGERIAN STUDY

Eli S1, KalioDGB2, BriggsNCT3, OkaguaKE3*, EkiyorC4, OkonofuaFE5

1Mother and Baby Care Global Foundation
2Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Rivers State University Teaching Hospital, Port Harcourt, Nigeria
3Department of Community Medicine, Rivers State University, Nigeria
4RAHI Foundation
5Women’s Health and Action Research Center

ABSTRACT

Background: Tuberculosis (TB) is a major public health problem with negative impact on the reproductive health of women. Nigeria ranks first in Africa and fourth among the 22 high TB burden countries in the world, with about 460,000 cases of TB recorded annually.

Aim: To determine the awareness of TB amongst antenatal clinic (ANC) attendees at the Rivers State University Teaching Hospital (RSUTH), Nigeria.

Method: It was a cross sectional study of ANC attendees at the RSUTH, Nigeria. Simple randomized sampling method was used. The information was analyzed using SPSS version 25.

Results: The total numbers of 200 questionnaires were distributed and 190 retrieved. The mean age was 32 years and the modal parity was 0. The mean gestational age was 30 weeks. The awareness of TB amongst the ANC attendees was 177 (93.2%). One (0.5%) had open TB in the past, was not treated. Six (3.2%) had family members/friends with TB. One hundred and forty-five (76.3%) of the respondents had BCG vaccine in infancy.

Key words: Awareness, TB, ANC attendees, Nigerian Study

CONCLUSION

The study revealed the awareness of TB amongst ANC attendees at the RSUTH as 93.7%, 3.2% had family members/friends with TB. In addition, the study revealed that 76.3% had BCG in infancy the target should be 100%. Enlightenment program is needed to create awareness on preventive measures as regards the scourge of TB which may be a co-infection with HIV/AIDs.
AWARENESS OF CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING AMONGST ANTENATAL CLINIC ATTENDEES AT THE RIVERS STATE UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL

Eli S¹, OkaguaK²*, KalioDGB², BriggsNCT³, KuaP², AltraideBOA², AwoyesukuP², Mother and Baby Care Global foundation¹

¹Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Rivers State University Teaching Hospital, Port Harcourt, Nigeria
²Department of Community Medicine, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

ABSTRACT
The incidence of cervical cancer may be reduced to as much as 95% in the developed countries of the world. However, in the developing countries where there are no organized screening, mortality from cervical cancer is alarming.

Aim:
To determine the awareness of cervical cancer amongst antenatal patients at the Rivers State University Teaching Hospital (RSUTH).

Method:
The study was a cross-sectional study of antenatal patients at the RSUTH. Questionnaire were distributed and information were coded and analyzed using SPSS version 20.

Results:
Two hundred and ten questionnaire were distributed and 200 retrieved. The mean age was 32 ± 2 years and the modal parity was 3. Fifty six (28%) of the attendees were aware of cervical cancer, of which 32(16%) had family history of cervical cancer. One hundred (50%) of the patients had tertiary level of education, 56 (28%) had secondary level of education whereas 44(22%) had primary level of education. The hospital was the most common means of information (22%), followed by the media 2(2%). Pap smear was the most common screening method 52(26%) followed by human papilloma virus antigen screening method 4(2%).

Key words: Awareness, Cervical cancer screening, Antenatal clinic attendees, RSUTH.

CONCLUSION
Cervical cancer screening awareness amongst antenatal clinic attendees at the RSUTH was poor. Enlightenment programme is highly recommended for screening antenatal clinic attendees and women of reproductive age in general. In addition, policies should be made by the government in favour of organized screening as regards cancer of cervix as to help reduce the incidence of mortality from this preventable pathology.
CONCLUSION

The study revealed that majority of antenatal clinic attendees at the RSUTH registered late for ANC representing 84.8% of the pregnant women at booking. There is need to educate women of reproductive age to register early for ANC to prevent adverse maternal and perinatal outcome. Community based study is recommended with larger sample size.
CONCLUSION

The prevalence of pregnant women who suffer hostility and violence at the RSUTH was 8.7%. One (3.8%) of the ante natal clinic attendee was co-managed by the psychiatrist because she had suicidal tendencies. The husbands were responsible for hostility in 50% of these cases. Involvement of psychiatrist will help offer wholistic treatment for these patients.