

1. Prevalence and correlates of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis knowledge among intrapartum patients and health care providers in Kabul, Afghanistan

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Journal | AIDS Care |
| Authors | Todd CS, Ahmadzai M, Atiqzai F, Smith JM, Miller S, Azfar P, Siddiqui H, Ghazanfar SA , Strathdee SA |
| Year | 2009 |
| Citation | 2009 Jan;21(1):109-17. doi: 10.1080/09540120802068779. |
| Abstract | Little is known about blood-borne infection awareness and knowledge among obstetric populations and health care providers in Afghanistan. HIV and hepatitis B awareness and knowledge are described among 4452 intrapartum patients completing an interviewer-administered questionnaire and whole-blood rapid testing and 123 obstetric care providers completing a questionnaire between June 2006 and September 2006. Participants were enrolled from three Kabul public maternity hospitals. Most participants were aware of HIV (50.8% of patients and 95.9% of providers) and hepatitis (72.1% of patients and 91.1% of providers). Correct transmission knowledge (defined as naming three correct routes and no incorrect routes) was lower for both groups (HIV: 19.4% for patients and 59.7% for providers; hepatitis B: 1.90% for patients and 33.9% for providers). Correct HIV transmission knowledge among providers was independently associated with level of education (AOR=1.75, 95% CI: 1.20-2.55). While HIV and hepatitis B awareness is common, correct and comprehensive knowledge is not. Continuing education for providers and health communications strategies should address identified knowledge gaps. |

2. Attitudes and practices of obstetric care providers in Kabul, Afghanistan regarding antenatal testing for sexually transmitted infection

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Journal | Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, & Neonatal Nursing |
| Authors | Todd CS, Ahmadzai M, Smith JM, Siddiqui H, Ghazanfar SA , Strathdee SA |
| Year | 2008 |
| Citation | 2008 Sep-Oct;37(5):607-15. doi: 10.1111/j.1552-6909.2008.00283.x. |
| Abstract | <p>OBJECTIVE: To determine attitudes toward and utilization of testing for HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B among obstetric care providers in Kabul, Afghanistan.</p> <p>DESIGN: Cross-sectional survey.</p> <p>SETTING: Three public maternity hospitals in Kabul, Afghanistan.</p> <p>PARTICIPANTS: One hundred and fourteen (114) doctors and midwives.</p> <p>MAIN OUTCOME MEASURE: Prevalence and correlates of ever having tested patients for HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B and agreement with statements concerning attitudes toward testing</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| | <p>and care.</p> <p>RESULTS:</p> <p>Less than half of the patient care providers surveyed had previously tested a patient for HIV, syphilis, or hepatitis B. Presumed rarity of these infections in Afghanistan was the most frequently stated reason for not testing, although many midwives stated that they did not have the authority to order tests. Most providers supported testing to promote neonatal health, but some midwives expressed concern regarding patient and family perceptions.</p> <p>CONCLUSIONS:</p> <p>Due to logistical and cultural barriers, obstetric care providers underutilize testing for antenatal patients in Afghanistan. Improved training, empowerment of female providers, and availability of rapid testing are needed.</p> |
| <p>3. Seroprevalence and correlates of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B and C virus among intrapartum patients in Kabul, Afghanistan</p> | |
| Authors | Todd CS, Ahmadzai M, Atiqzai F, Miller S, Smith JM, Ghazanfar SA, Strathdee SA |
| Journal | BioMed Central Infectious Diseases |
| Year | 2008 |
| Citation | 2008 Sep 17;8:119. doi: 10.1186/1471-2334-8-119. |
| Abstract | <p>BACKGROUND:</p> <p>Little current information is available for prevalence of vertically-transmitted infections among the Afghan population. The purpose of this study is to determine prevalence and correlates of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), syphilis, and hepatitis B and C infection among obstetric patients and model hepatitis B vaccination approaches in Kabul, Afghanistan.</p> <p>METHODS:</p> <p>This cross-sectional study was conducted at three government maternity hospitals in Kabul, Afghanistan from June through September, 2006. Consecutively-enrolled participants completed an interviewer-administered survey and whole blood rapid testing with serum confirmation for antibodies to HIV, T. pallidum, and HCV, and HBsAg. Descriptive data and prevalence of infection were calculated, with logistic regression used to identify correlates of HBV infection. Modeling was performed to determine impact of current and birth dose vaccination strategies on HBV morbidity and mortality.</p> <p>RESULTS:</p> <p>Among 4452 women, prevalence of HBsAg was 1.53% (95% CI: 1.18 - 1.94) and anti-HCV was 0.31% (95% CI: 0.17 - 0.53). No cases of HIV or syphilis were detected. In univariate analysis, HBsAg was associated with husband's level of education (OR = 1.13, 95% CI: 1.01 - 1.26). Modeling indicated that introduction of birth dose vaccination would not significantly reduce hepatitis-related morbidity or mortality for the measured HBsAg prevalence.</p> <p>CONCLUSION:</p> <p>Intrapartum whole blood rapid testing for HIV, syphilis, HBV, and HCV was acceptable to patients in Afghanistan. Though HBsAg prevalence is relatively</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| | low, periodic assessments should be performed to determine birth dose vaccination recommendations for this setting. |
| 4. Cross-sectional analysis of factors associated with prior contraceptive use among hospitalized obstetric patients in Kabul, Afghanistan | |
| Authors | Todd CS, Isley MM, Ahmadzai M, Azfar P, Atiqzai F, Smith JM, Ghazanfar SA , Strathdee SA, Miller S |
| Journal | Contraception |
| Year | 2008 |
| Citation | 2008 Sep;78(3):249-56. doi: 10.1016/j.contraception.2008.05.005 |
| Abstract | <p>OBJECTIVE: This study was conducted to assess prevalence and correlates of prior contraceptive use among hospitalized obstetric patients in Kabul, Afghanistan.</p> <p>STUDY DESIGN: Medically eligible (e.g., conditions not requiring urgent medical attention, such as eclampsia, or not imminently delivering [dilation > or =8 cm]) obstetric patients admitted to three Kabul public hospitals were consecutively enrolled in this cross-sectional study. An interviewer-administered questionnaire assessed demographic information, health utilization history, including prior contraceptive use, and intent to use contraception. Correlates of prior contraceptive use were determined with logistic regression.</p> <p>RESULTS: Of 4452 participants, the mean age was 25.7 years (SD, +/-5.7 years), 66.4% reported pregnancy before the presenting gestation, 88.4% had > or =1 prenatal care visit and 82.4% reported the current pregnancy was desired. Most (67.4%) had no formal education. One fifth (22.8%) reported using contraception before this pregnancy. Among women with any pregnancy before the current gestation (98.6% of prior users), prior contraceptive use was independently associated with having lived outside Afghanistan in the last 5 years (adjusted odds ratio [AOR], 1.35; 95% confidence interval [CI], 1.12-1.63), having a skilled attendant at the last birth (AOR, 1.35; 95% CI, 1.07-1.71), having a greater number of living children (AOR, 1.30; 95% CI, 1.20-1.41), longer mean birth interval (years) (AOR, 1.21; 95% CI, 1.11-1.38) and higher educational level (AOR, 1.16; 95% CI, 1.09-1.22). Immediate desire for another pregnancy and spousal disapproval were the most common reasons for not utilizing contraception.</p> <p>CONCLUSION: Prior contraceptive use is low among the women in Kabul, Afghanistan, particularly for younger less educated women. Programming in Kabul to strengthen postpartum contraceptive counseling should address barriers to contraceptive use, including immediate desire for pregnancy and spousal attitudes.</p> |
| 5. Normal haematologic values for residents of Kabul | |
| Authors | Homayon T, Zaheer GR, Ghazanfar SA |

| | |
|---|--|
| Journal | Indian Journal of Experimental Biology |
| Year | 1968 |
| Citation | 1968 Jul;6(3):178. |
| Abstract | No abstract available |
| 6. Hemoglobinopathy in Afghanistan | |
| Authors | Ghazanfar SA |
| Journal | J Med Liban |
| Year | 1968 |
| Citation | 1968 Jan-Feb;21(1):9-18. |
| Abstract | No abstract available. |
| 7. CARBONIC ANHYDRASES FROM HUMAN ERYTHROCYTES PREPARATION AND PROPERTIES OF TWO ENZYMES | |
| Authors | RICKLI EE, GHAZANFAR SA, GIBBONS BH, EDSALL JT |
| Journal | The Journal of Biological Chemistry |
| Year | 1964 |
| Citation | 1964 Apr;239:1065-78. |
| Abstract | See full article from Harvard University. |
| 8. D-xylose test in enteric fever, cirrhosis, and malabsorptive states | |
| Authors | SHAMMA'A MH, GHAZANFAR SA |
| Journal | British Medical Journal |
| Year | 1960 |
| Citation | 1960 Sep 17;2(5202):836-8. |
| Abstract | See full article from American University of Beirut (AUB). |