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STREPTOCOCCUS GROUP B POSITIVE MOTHERS AND NEONATAL PNEUMONIA

Background: Maternal vaginal swabs positive for Streptococcus group B (GBS) can cause severe infections in newborns. The aims of this study were: to identify the rate of neonatal pneumonia in GBS positive mothers, GBS negative mothers, and mothers with unknown bacterial status. Material and methods: newborns born at the Academic hospital for Gynecology and Obstetrics in Skopje, Macedonia. Perinatal histories of the mothers and the babies were analysed. Three groups of patients were designed: GBS positive mothers(68), confirmed GBS negative mothers(242), and mothers with unknown GBS status(190). Pneumonia was considered if confirmed by X-ray, clinically and biochemically. Results: 500 histories of consecutively pairs mother/baby were analysed. In the first group, 16 babies had confirmed pneumonia, thus comprising 23,5%; in the second group, neonatal pneumonia was identified in 9 patients (3,75%), and in the third group, 20 newborns had pneumonia (11%). When worked up statistically, the significant difference existed between the babies of GBS positive mothers, and those of GBS negative. Other groups had no statistically significant difference in outcome. The positive predictive value of GBS positive status for neonatal pneumonia is only 23,5%, but the negative predictive value is 91%, which means that the GBS negative mothers have really low risk for having baby with congenital pneumonia. These results suggest a conclusion that determining GBS status can help, together with all other means (diagnostic possibilities) in preventing and treating congenital pneumonia.

Key words: neonatal pneumonia, GBS positive swab, infection