

Sexually transmitted infections in pregnant women and congenital cytomegalovirus infections in mother- newborn pairs, Southern Ethiopia

INTRODUCTION

Despite the impact of maternal STIs and CMV infection on pregnancy, it has been overlooked and no preventive measures are provided for pregnant women during ANC or family planning clinics in Ethiopia.

The reported STIs represent only the “tip of the iceberg” because most infections in women are asymptomatic or (if symptoms exist) unrecognized due to the poor healthcare system for curable STIs.

Likewise, although congenital CMV being the most common infection causing sensorineural hearing loss and neurodevelopmental delay in the infant, maternal CMV and cCMV are almost unnoticed in Ethiopia.

Hence, investigation of the burden of curable STIs and cCMV infection is an essential aspect of proper management and prevention strategy.

OBJECTIVES

1. To determine the burden of curable STIs in pregnant women in Southern Ethiopia.
2. To assess seroprevalence of maternal CMV in Southern Ethiopia
3. To analyse sample stability after prolonged storage for the CMV test using Alethia molecular assay.
4. To evaluate congenital CMV infections in mother-newborn pairs in Southern Ethiopia

CONCLUSIONS

- The high rate of curable STIs demands special follow-up for pregnant women
- The routine syndromic management should be updated by integrating rapid and affordable POC tests to address asymptomatic curable STIs.
- Special attention should be given to maternal CMV as the rate of active CMV is higher compared to developed countries.
- The high rate of cCMV infection was comparable with most African countries.
- Saliva samples collected using Copan swab can be stored for months for CMV test using Alethia CMV molecular assay.



ABBREVIATION

ANC	Antenatal care
<i>C.trachomatis</i>	<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>
cCMV	Congenital cytomegalovirus infection
CMV	Cytomegalovirus
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
ELISA	Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay
HBV	Hepatitis B Virus
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HSV	Herpes simplex virus
HU-CSH	Hawassa University comprehensive and specialized hospital
LAMP	Loop-mediated amplification
<i>N.gonorrhoeae</i>	<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>
NAATs	Nucleic acid amplification tests
NAH	Nucleic acid hybridization
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
PID	Pelvic inflammatory disease
POC	Point of care
RDTs	Rapid diagnostic tests
STIs	Sexually transmitted infections
SVD	Spontaneous vaginal delivery
<i>T. vaginalis</i>	<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>
WHO	World Health Organization

PROMOTER

Prof. Dr. Elizaveta Padalko

Department of Diagnostic Sciences, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

CO- PROMOTERS

Dr. Eskindir Loha

Centre for International Health, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway

Prof. Zeleke Mekonnen

Jimma University, Ethiopia

MEMBERS OF THE JURY

Prof. Dr. Joris Delanghe (Chairman)

Department of Diagnostic Sciences, Ghent University, Belgium

Prof. Dr. Ludo Mahieu

Department of Neonatal Intensive Care, University Hospital Antwerp, Belgium

Dr. Marie-Luce Delforge

National Reference Center for Congenital Infections, Erasme Hospital, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

Prof. Dr. Kristien Roelens

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ghent University Hospital, Belgium

Prof. Dr. Jerina Boelens

Department of Diagnostic Sciences, Ghent University, Belgium

Prof. Dr. Piet Cools

Department of Diagnostic Sciences, Ghent University, Belgium

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CONTACT

Mengistu Hailemariam Zenebe

Department of Diagnostic Sciences

mengistuhailemariam.zenebe@ugent.be

T +32 474219478

www.ugent.be

<https://biblio.ugent.be/user/publication>

Short Curriculum Vitae

Master of Science in Medical Microbiology

2011, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Technology

2006, Jimma University, Ethiopia

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