

Prevalence and Vertical Transmission of hepatitis C virus infection among pregnant women attending Antenatal Care Unit of Central Women's Hospital, Mandalay

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Abstract

In 2008 and 2009, prevalence study on hepatitis C virus infection among pregnant women in a hospital- based setting was first introduced in Mandalay, by the Virology Research Division, Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar) jointly with the Mandalay Central Women's Hospital. Blood samples were collected from the patients who gave informed consent after counseling in groups. These samples were sent to the Virology Research Division, Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar) for virological studies.

A total of 800 blood samples were obtained during two consecutive years (from October 2008 to August 2009). Among the tested samples, 15 samples showed positive result for HCV antibody which in turn indicates 1.87 % laboratory confirmed cases of HCV infection. Samples were collected from different ages of new born babies. Five samples were taken within one month of age, 7 samples within two months, 3 samples within three months, respectively. The overall rate of vertical transmission in this particular study was 53.33 %.