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NEONATAL SCREENING OF TOXOPLASMOSIS: A PROSPECTIVE STUDY OF 138 OBSTETRICS PATIENTS

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Objective: It is difficult to find the best method for prevention of congenital toxoplasmosis. The aim of this study was find out the results of neonatal screening in Şanhurfa.

Methods: This prospective study consisted of 138 pregnant women and their infants who delivered between May 2001 and June 2002 at Obstetrics and Gynecology Department of Harran University Hospital. Blood samples were analyzed for the presence of Toxoplasma-spesific immunglobulin M (IgM) and G antibodies (IgG) by ELISA method. Blood samples of the newborns were collected by the first and the fifth days of their lifes. SPSS 11.02 for Windows was used for statistical analyzes.

Results: The serologic test results of this study were demonstrated that at infants group 84 (60.9%) cases were IgG-positive and IgM-negative and 54 (39.1%) cases both IgG and IgM were negative. At mothers group 89 (64%) cases were IgG-positive, IgM-negative and 3 (2.2%) cases were found as IgG-negative and IgM-positive.

Conclusion: All newborns from mothers with antibody have passively acquired maternal IgG antibody whether the newborn is infected or not. IgM antibodies are not transferred across the placenta. Therefore demonstration of IgM antibodies in the newborn usually is sufficient to indicate active antenatal infection. Although we did not identify IgM by newborn screening, previous studies show that neonatal detection of Toxoplasma-spesific IgM antibodies is a feasible and practical method.

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EARLY POSTPARTUM DETECTION OF HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN

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Objective: Neonates of women positive for Hepatitis B surface Antigen (HBsAg) are at risk of becoming chronically infected, which can lead to significant future health disorders such as hepatocellular carcinoma. Without treatment 65% to 90% of these newborns will become chronic carriers. The purpose of this study was to find out the carriers at early postpartum period who were not detected for Hepatitis B during pregnancy and to prevent the newborns.

Methods: A prospective study was developed at Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of Harran University Hospital between June 2001 and June 2002. 136 pregnant women who attended to the delivery room and their newborns included to the study. The mean age of the cases was 27.4(SD 4.9) years. Blood samples of mothers and newborns were collected at the first 2 hours of the birth. The samples were analyzed for HbsAg and Hepatitis B Antibodies (HbsAb). SPSS 11.02 for Windows was used for statistical analyzes.

Results: A total of 10 (7.3%) HBsAg-positive mother were identified. Fifty-six mothers (41.1%) had HbsAb. Forty-three (31.6%) of the newborns had HbsAb but all were negative for HbsAg and 95 (68.4%) newborns were seronegative. Infants born to HbsAg-positive mothers hepatitis B-specific immune globulin (HBIg) and hepatitis vaccine were used.

Conclusion: This study was pointed out the screening of the HbsAg-positive mothers at early postpartum period can help to prevent the neonates from hepatitis B infection.