



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

Association Between Bacterial Vaginosis in the Second Trimester and Preterm Birth: A Prospective Cohort Study in the middle belt of Ghana

Category:

Maternal and child health

Authors:

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Objectives:

Preterm birth (PTB) poses significant risks to neonatal health. Bacterial vaginosis (BV), an imbalance of vaginal bacteria, has been considered a potential risk factor for PTB. This study examines the association between second-trimester BV and PTB.

Method:

Vaginal swabs were collected from a cohort of 382 pregnant women and analyzed using Nugent criteria (scoring system for BV diagnosis). Multivariable logistic regression was used to evaluate the association between BV and PTB, controlling for potential confounders. Chi-square tests were used to explore associations between BV and demographic characteristics.

Results:

The prevalence of BV and PTB was 24.9% and 5.8%, respectively. BV in the second trimester was not significantly associated with an increased risk of PTB after adjusting for confounders (adjusted p = 0.45). However, BV was significantly associated with demographic factors, such as marital status (p = 0.012) and ethnicity (p = 0.013). Lifestyle behaviours, including douching and antimicrobial use, were not significantly associated with BV. Notably, most women with BV were asymptomatic.

Conclusion:

Bacterial vaginosis in the second trimester was not an independent risk factor for preterm birth. However, BV was significantly associated with demographic characteristics like marital status and ethnicity. Further research is needed to clarify the role of BV in pregnancy and its potential clinical implications for maternal and neonatal health.

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