

**TITLE:** *STREPTOCOCCUS AGALACTIAE*: PREVALENCE, SENSITIVITY PROFILE, AND COMPARATIVE METHODS FOR IDENTIFICATION IN ISOLATED STRAINS OF PREGNANTS PRESENTED AT THE BASIC HEALTH UNITS OF VITORIA DA CONQUISTA-BA, BRAZIL.

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**ABSTRACT:**

*Streptococcus agalactiae* or Group B *Streptococcus* (GBS) has great medical relevance to neonate infection, causing sepsis, pneumonia, and meningitis. Understand the GBS colonization prevalence in pregnant women, as well as point out the best method of identification is extremely important to justify the inclusion of prenatal screening for this microorganism, consequently, minimizing the deleterious effects on newborns and health costs, mainly related to hospitalizations in neonatal intensive care units. In this context, the purpose of this study are: to indicate the GBS colonization prevalence in pregnant women between 32 and 40 weeks under prenatal care at the basic health units of Vitória da Conquista-BA, to compare methods for identification (Chromogenic agar, serogrouping and real-time polymerase chain reaction) from vaginal/rectal secretions samples collected by single swab, and to determine the sensitivity profile of the isolates using the disk-diffusion method (Kirby and Bauer). Samples with intermediate sensitivity profile or antibiotic resistance profile tested by this method, in accordance with the CLSI criteria, are referred to determinate the Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) by the Etest® method and to detect the gene resistance. To date, 34% of the samples for the study have already been collected with GBS colonization prevalence around 20%, and correlation between identification by chromogenic agar and serogrouping of 100%. Additionally, 80% of the isolates were found to have an expected sensitivity profile, being sensitive to penicillin, ampicillin, erythromycin, clindamycin, cefotaxime and vancomycin. The real-time polymerase chain reaction identification will be done in steps, after all the samples being collected. Preliminary results indicate a considerable prevalence of GBS and, if these findings are maintained, reinforce the importance of GBS screening during the prenatal routine in Vitória da Conquista-BA.

**KEYWORDS:** *Streptococcus agalactiae*; pregnant, prevalence, detection methods.