

TITLE: PREVALENCE OF COLONIZATION OF GROUP B STREPTOCOCCI IN PREGNANT WOMEN ATTENDED AT THE PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORK IN PORTO VELHO-RO

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ABSTRACT:

Group B Streptococcus (GBS, *Streptococcus agalactiae*) is a bacterium that normally inhabits the nasopharynx as well as the genitourinary and gastrointestinal tract. It is associated with several comorbidities, among which the most important are sepsis, meningitis and pneumonia in neonates and immunosuppressed individuals. In neonates, GBS is transmitted at the time of delivery, which motivated the recommendation for research of this bacterium in all pregnant women between the 35th and 38th gestational week by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and antibiotic intrapartum prophylaxis in those with a positive result. In Brazil, however, the Ministry of Health does not adopt this recommendation, due to lack of epidemiological evidence. Thus, we aimed to evaluate the presence of GBS in pregnant women attended by the public service in the municipality of Porto Velho / Rondônia. Between the years 2018 and 2019, 183 pregnant women, over 33 gestational weeks, were evaluated for the presence of GBS by rectal and vaginal swab collection. The bacteria was grown in Todd-Hewitt broth and identified by PCR. GBS was confirmed in about 21% of pregnant women (39/183), a value close to what is reported in Brazil. The highest prevalence of GBS was among pregnant women 18 to 25 years old, about 36% (14/39; $p = 0.4676$). The pregnant women recruited in the project presented in their majority a profile of socioeconomic fragility. About 75% reported *per capita* income below 1 minimum wage (141/183) and half of them studied up to 12 years (108/183), so that there was no statistically significant difference among pregnant women regarding the presence of GBS. Also, there was no evidence of differences in evaluated data between pregnant women regarding the presence of GBS and marital status ($p = 1$); with the number of previous pregnancies ($p = 0.4622$); with the number of prenatal consultations ($p = 0.9098$), genital tract symptoms (0.9256) or previous neonatal sepsis ($p = 1$). The high presence of GBS among our pregnant women demonstrates the importance of maintaining this vigilance in this public.

KEYWORDS: GBS, pregnant, prevalence, Porto Velho-RO.

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