

Prevalence of rubella susceptibility among pregnant mothers in a community-based antenatal clinic in Malaysia: A cross-sectional study.

Abstract

Introduction: Routine rubella antibody screening is not done for antenatal mothers in community health clinics in Malaysia. However, congenital rubella syndrome has persisted with its associated health burden. **Objectives:** To determine the prevalence of rubella susceptibility among pregnant mothers and its associated risk factors. **Methodology:** A cross-sectional study was carried out in the Petaling district, Selangor, Malaysia, where 500 pregnant mothers were recruited, and face-to-face interviews were conducted. Rubella IgG tests were performed. **Results:** The prevalence of rubella susceptibility among pregnant mothers was 11.4%. Using logistic regression, a history of not having received rubella vaccination or having unknown rubella vaccination status was found to be a significant predictor for mothers to be rubella susceptible (odds ratio = 2.691; 95% confidence interval = 1.539-4.207). **Conclusions:** Routine rubella IgG screening tests need to be offered to all antenatal mothers in view of the high prevalence found.

Keyword: Antenatal; Malaysia; Prevalence; Rubella susceptibility.