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Research Article

Study of demographic features in retropositive pregnant women

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ABSTRACT

Background: Study of demographic features like age, educational status of the patient and her husband, occupation of the patient and her husband and religion of the retropositive pregnant women compared to controls.

Methods: In this prospective study patients were selected from Vani Vilas Hospital attached to Bangalore Medical College attending the antenatal Clinic of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The study period was for 2 years. The study group comprised of 100 HIV seropositive patients. The control group comprised of 100 HIV seronegative patients. At enrollment, data collection of demographic features like age, educational status of the patient and her husband, occupation of patient and her husband, and religion of the retropositive pregnant women compared to controls.

Results: The minimum and maximum age in the study group was 18 and 36 years respectively and in the control group 17 and 35 years respectively. Around 73% of pregnant women in the study group were below 25 years of age. 89% of pregnant women in the study group were Hindus. Around 36% of women in the study group were illiterate compared to 21% in the control group. Around 45% of women in the control group have studied till secondary school. In this study, most of the women in both the groups were housewives. There was one commercial sex worker and 8 women had polygamous relationship in the study group. The occupational pattern of the husbands was analyzed and 34% of the husbands of HIV positive women were drivers. 56% of the husbands in the study group admitted to have had multiple sexual partners, whereas only 9% admitted so, in the control group.

Conclusions: Retropositive pregnant women were younger; most of them were house wives. Husbands of retropositive pregnant women were drivers and most of them had multiple sexual partners.

Keywords: Demographic features, Retropositive, Pregnant women

INTRODUCTION

Human immuno deficiency virus, HIV is now established as the primary cause of acquired immuno deficiency syndrome. HIV has a dramatic impact on the health of women, infants and children.¹

India carries the largest burden of HIV in Asia and is the third country of the world in terms of the number of people living with HIV.¹ Increasing numbers of women are HIV-infected worldwide and within the Indian context, women account for an estimated 40% of cases among the 2.5 million people living with HIV/AIDS.²

In India, women account for around 1 million out of the 2.5 million estimated numbers of people living with HIV/AIDS.³ Study of demographic features like age, educational status of the patient and her husband, occupation of patient and her husband, and religion of the pregnant retropositive pregnant women compared to controls.

METHODS

In this prospective study patients were selected from Vani Vilas Hospital attached to Bangalore Medical College attending the antenatal Clinic of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, India. The study period was for 2 years.

Department of Vani Vilas Hospital were recruited and after a proper pre-test counseling by experienced counselors, the informed written consent for conducting the HIV test was taken. Diagnosis of HIV seropositive was made as per the NACO guidelines, using rapid tests. The study group comprised of 100 HIV seropositive patients. The control group comprised of 100 HIV seronegative patients. Inclusion criteria was willing to get enrolled in the study. Informed written consent was taken. Exclusion criteria was women with bad obstetric history and women not willing to get enrolled in the study.

At enrollment, data collection of demographic features like age, educational status of the patient and her husband, occupation of patient and her husband, and religion of the pregnant retropositive pregnant women compared to controls.

RESULTS

A prospective comparative study consisting of 100 HIV seropositive pregnant women as study group and 100 HIV seronegative pregnant women as controls.

Table 1:Age distribution.

Age in years	HIV positive	HIV negative	Significance	RR
15-19	13 (13.0)	8 (8.0)	P=0.249	1.27
20-25	60 (60.0)	80 (80.0)	P=0.003	0.64
26-30	22 (22.0)	11 (11.0)	P=0.056	1.42
> 30	5 (5.0)	1 (1.0)	P=0.212	1.69
Total	100	100		

The minimum and maximum age in the study group was 18 and 36 years respectively, and in the control group 17 and 35 years respectively. Around 73% of pregnant women in the study group were below 25 years of age.

Table 2: Religion wise distribution.

Religion	HIV positive	HIV negative	Significance	RR
Christian	-	3 (3.0)	P=0.246	-
Hindu	89 (89.0)	78 (78.0)	P=0.036	1.61
Muslim	11 (11.0)	19 (19.0)	P=0.113	0.71
Total	100	100		

89% of pregnant women in the study group were hindus.

Around 36% of women are illiterate in the study group and is significantly different from the control group. Around 45 % of women in the control group have studied till secondary, which is also statistically significant at P<0.05

Table 3: Educational status of women

Education (Women)	HIV positive	HIV negative	Significance	RR
Illiterate	36 (36.0)	21 (21.0)	P=0.019	1.43
Primary	19 (19.0)	23 (23.0)	P=0.487	0.88
Secondary	31 (31.0)	45 (45.0)	P=0.041	0.73
College	14 (14.0)	11 (11.0)	P=0.521	1.14
Total	100	100		

Table 4: Educational status of the husband.

Education (husband)	HIV positive	HIV negative	Significance	RR
Illiterate	31 (31.0)	26 (26.0)	P=0.434	1.15
Primary	19 (19.0)	21 (21.0)	P=0.724	1.48
Secondary	37 (37.0)	38 (38.0)	P=0.884	0.98
College	13 (13.0)	15 (15.0)	P=0.684	0.91
Total	100	100		

There was no statistical difference between study and control group.

Table 5: Occupational distribution of women.

Occupation (women)	HIV positive	HIV negative
Beedi worker	-	1
CSW	1	-
Garment factory	1	2
House wife	94	92
Pharmacist	-	1
Staff nurse	1	2
Teacher	3	2
Total	100	100

Table 6: Occupation of the husband.

Occupation (husband)	HIV positive	HIV negative	Significance
Agriculture and farmers	20	17	P=0.585
Truck/ auto/ taxi driver /cleaner	35	8	P=0.000
Unskilled worker	27	41	
Industrial and factory worker	2	16	-
Hotel	3	3	-
Business	5	7	-
Others	8	8	-

Most of the women in both the study and control group were housewives. There was one commercial sex worker in the study group.

In terms of occupation of husband 35% were drivers in the study group whereas in the control group there were only 8% including 2% cleaners, which is statistically significant ($P < 0.05$).

DISCUSSION

In the present study, 100 HIV seropositive pregnant women were compared with 100 HIV seronegative pregnant women. The focus for evaluation was mainly demographic characteristics like age, educational status of the patient and her husband, occupation of patient and her husband and religion of the retropositive pregnant women compared to controls.

All the pregnant women were aged between 17 and 36 years. The minimum and maximum age in the study group was 18 and 36 years respectively, and in the control group 17 and 35 years respectively. Around 73% pregnant women in this study group were below 25 years of age.

The educational status of both the women and their partners was studied. Around 36% of women in the study group were illiterate compared to 21% in the control group. Around 45% of women in the control group have studied till secondary school. However, there are a good number of women who have studied till college in both the groups. Moreover, in the study there was no significant difference in the educational status of the husbands.

In this study, most of the women in both the groups were housewives. There was one commercial sex worker and 8 women had polygamous relationship in the study group.

These findings are in agreement with those of study by Chauhan G et al who found that 81% were housewives and 88% to be monogamous in a study in Tamil Nadu characterizing 134 HIV positive women.⁴

In recent years, married monogamous women have been identified as a population at increasing risk for HIV in India. Most of the risk factors for HIV-1 infection in our population are related to sexual risk behavior, including age at sexual debut, number of sexual partners and a history of STDs. In India, drivers and commercial sex workers are at higher risk for HIV infection than other population groups. HIV positive women were found to have significantly more STDs than HIV negative women.

Around 15% of HIV positive women had additional STDs compared to only 3% of HIV negative women.

These findings are comparable to other studies. Minkoff et al, reported that seropositive mothers were significantly more likely to have sexually transmitted diseases.⁵ A study conducted in India by Patel M et al, reported that 20.7% HIV positive women had additional sexually transmitted diseases compared to only 4.6% HIV negative women.⁶

The occupational pattern of the husbands was analyzed and 34% of the husbands of HIV positive women were drivers. 56% of the husbands in the study group admitted to have had multiple sexual partners, whereas only 9% admitted so, in the control group. Only 6% of both the partners had polygamous relation in the study group.

CONCLUSION

Retropositive pregnant women were younger, most of them were house wives. Husbands of retropositive pregnant women were drivers and most of them had multiple sexual partners.

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Conflict of interest: None declared

Ethical approval: The study was approved by the Institutional Ethics Committee

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