PREVALENCE OF CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS INFECTION AMONG WOMEN ATTENDING GYNAECOLOGICAL CLINIC FOR INFERTILITY IN ZARIA, NIGERIA

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Background: In Africa, infertility is a major reproductive health problem and it is estimated that an average of 10.1% of couples experience infertility. Infertility accounts for more than 50% of gynaecological clinic consultations in Nigeria and over 80% of laparoscopic investigations are due to infertility. Tubal infertility contributes about 60% to the main causes of infertility in Nigeria and Chlamydia trachomatis PID is an important preventable cause of tubal infertility.

Objective: To determine the sero-prevalence of Chlamydia trachomatis infection IgG and IgM amongst female infertile patients presenting at ABUTH, Zaria.

Design: The study design was a cross-sectional laboratory based descriptive study of 400 consecutive consenting infertile patients presenting to the gynaecological clinic of the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Zaria.

Results: The sero-prevalence of IgG and IgM chlamydia trachomatis antibodies amongst women presenting with infertility in this study was, 31% and 29.5% respectively.

There were no significant statistical association between the socio-demographic characteristics of the patients considered and sero-positivity for chlamydia trachomatis, except for the significant statistical association found between educational status and sero-positivity for chlamydia trachomatis IgG. The highest frequency was essentially among patients who had less than tertiary education; primary education 28 (58.3%), secondary 42(34.4%), quranic education 12(33.3%) and no education 2 (16.7%), while tertiary education had 40 (22%). (P = 0.012).

Conclusion: The sero-prevalence of chlamydia trachomatis infection, IgG and IgM was high in the studied population.