

# Awareness of HIV testing in pregnant women and her husband during ANC attending in OBGY department at JIIUS

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## Abstract

**Background:** In 2009 it was estimated that 3.4 million people are living with HIV in the world. Only 33% of HIV-positive women received antiretroviral drugs to reduce the risk of mother to child transmission in 2007. **Aims and Objective:** To study Awareness of HIV testing in pregnant women and her husband during ANC attending in OBGY Department at JIIUS. **Methodology** This was a cross sectional study carried out in the ANC women attending the OBGY during the one year period i.e. June 2018 to June 2019 in the one year period there were 54 ANC women by taking the written consent included into the study. awareness about the HIV testing and HIV transmission was assessed by interviewing the couple. The responses were noted entered into excel sheet and analyzed by excel software for windows 10. **Result :** In our study we have seen that The majority of the ANC women were in the age group of 26-30 were 31.48%, The awareness regarding the various questions like Does HIV transmitted to foetus by mother ?- 9.26% were Yes, 22.22%-No, 68.52%-Don't Know; Do you know tests are there for detection of HIV?-7.41%-Yes, 12.96%-No, 79.63%-Don't know; Are you at a risk of Infection?-3.70 were Yes, 51.85%-No, 44.44 were Don't know; Can the disease prevented ? 5.56%-Yes, 22.22% were No, 72.22% were Don't know; Is HIV is Sexually transmitted disease ? 33.33%-Yes, 22.22%-No, 44.44%-Don't know; Can HIV be transmitted by contaminated blood? 31.48%-Yes, 20.37%-No, 48.15%-Don't know; Can HIV be transmitted by Kissing ?-35.19% Yes, 16.67%-No, 48.15%-Don't know; Can HIV be transmitted by sharing food ?-24.07% Yes, 35.19%-No, 40.74%-Don't know. From our study we have found that though there awareness of the disease HIV is good but the availability of preventive services by HIV testing so subsequent administration drugs for prevention is very low even some misbelieves about transmission of the disease still persists like it transmit by sharing food or transmitted casual hugging or shaking. **Conclusion :** It can be concluded from our study that the awareness regarding the PPTCT services with respective to HIV testing during the ANC period was very low so the awareness of it should be increased so that the transmission of HIV from mother to fetus can be done effectively.

**Key words :** HIV testing during pregnancy, PPTCT

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Received Date: 05/11/2019 Revised Date: 12/12/2019 Accepted Date: 09/01/2020

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26611/10121436>

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Accessed Date:  
30 June 2020

## INTRODUCTION

In 2009 it was estimated that 3.4 million people are living with HIV in the world<sup>1</sup>. Only 33% of HIV-positive women received antiretroviral drugs to reduce the risk of mother to child transmission in 2007<sup>2</sup>. HIV testing during pregnancy provides an entry point to PMTCT, treatment, care and support services when women are diagnosed with HIV<sup>3</sup>. However, low uptake of HIV testing has been a bottleneck for PMTCT and subsequent HIV treatment, care and support services. An estimated 30% of livings with HIV were unaware of their HIV status at the end of 2016<sup>[4]</sup>. Previous studies have identified different barriers

to uptake of HIV testing, which includes poor knowledge about MTCT, low maternal education level, fear stigma, and poor access to health services<sup>5-7</sup>. As the awareness regarding the testing of HIV during pregnancy very important for the prevention of HIV to foetus so we have assessed the awareness of ANC women at tertiary health care centre.

## METHODOLOGY

This was a cross sectional study carried out in the ANC women attending the OBGY during the one year period i.e. June 2018 to June 2019 in the one year period there were 54 ANC women by taking the written consent included into the study. All details of the women like age, and awareness about the HIV testing and HIV transmission was assessed by interviewing the couple by the semi – structured questionnaire. The responses were noted entered into excel sheet and analyzed by excel software for windows 10.

## RESULT

**Table 1:** Distribution of the patients as per the age

Age	No.	Percentage (%)
18-22	5	9.26
22-26	8	14.81
26-30	17	31.48
30-34	13	24.07
34-38	11	20.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The majority of the ANC women were in the age group of 26-30 were 31.48%, followed by in 30-34 were 24.07%, 34-38 were 20.37%, 22-26 were 14.81% ; 18-22 were 9.26%.

**Table 2:** Distribution of the patients as per the awareness of HIV testing

Awareness	Yes (%)	No (%)	Don't know (%)
Does HIV transmitted to foetus by mother ?	5(9.26)	12(22.22)	37(68.52)
Do you know tests are there for detection of HIV?	4(7.41)	7(12.96)	43(79.63)
Are you at a risk of Infection?	2(3.70)	28(51.85)	24(44.44)
Can the disease prevented ?	3(5.56)	12(22.22)	39(72.22)
Is HIV is Sexually transmitted disease ?	18(33.33)	12(22.22)	24(44.44)
Can HIV be transmitted by contaminated blood?	17(31.48)	11(20.37)	26(48.15)
Can HIV be transmitted by casual hugging or shaking hand ?	19(35.19)	9(16.67)	26(48.15)
Can HIV be transmitted by sharing food ?	13(24.07)	19(35.19)	22(40.74)

The awareness regarding the various questions like Does HIV transmitted to foetus by mother ?- 9.26 were Yes, 22.22-No, 68.52-Don't Know; Do you know tests are there for detection of HIV?-7.41-Yes, 12.96-No, 79.63-Don't know; Are you at a risk of Infection?- 3.70 were Yes, 51.85-No, 44.44 were Don't know; Can the disease prevented ? 5.56-Yes, 22.22 were No, 72.22 were Don't know; Is HIV is Sexually transmitted disease ? 33.33-Yes, 22.22-No, 44.44-Don't know; Can HIV be transmitted by contaminated blood? 31.48-Yes , 20.37-No, 48.15-Don't know; Can HIV be transmitted casual hugging or shaking?-35.19 Yes, 16.67-No, 48.15-Don't know; Can HIV be transmitted by sharing food ?-24.07 Yes , 35.19-No, 40.74-Don't know.

## DISCUSSION

Globally an estimated 1.8 million children infected with HIV in 2016<sup>8</sup>, and over 90% of infections among infants and children occur through mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) during pregnancy, labor/delivery, or breastfeeding<sup>9</sup>. The effectiveness of zidovudine in prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) has been recognized in the early 1990th<sup>10</sup>, and combination of antiretroviral drugs further reduces vertical transmission of HIV<sup>11,12</sup>. The preventive strategies under the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) include targeted interventions for high-risk groups and bridge population, Needle exchange programmes for injection drug users, prevention and control of sexually transmitted diseases, safer blood transfusion services, HIV counselling and testing services, prevention of parent to child transmission, condom promotion, health education and behavioural change communication, workplace intervention etc.<sup>13</sup> Increasing awareness among women and youth is an important component of the NACP. It is hence important to assess the awareness on HIV. Awareness of HIV is important in antenatal mothers as they are the sexually active age-group and encouraging early HIV testing will augment the PPTCT services. In our study we have seen that The majority of the ANC women were in the age group of 26-30 were 31.48%, followed by in 30-34 were 24.07%, 34-38 were 20.37%, 22-26 were 14.81% ; 18-22 were 9.26%. The awareness regarding the various questions like Does HIV transmitted to foetus by mother ?- 9.26 were Yes, 22.22-No, 68.52-Don't Know; Do you know tests are there for detection of HIV?-7.41-Yes, 12.96-No, 79.63-Don't know; Are you at a risk of Infection?- 3.70 were Yes, 51.85-No, 44.44 were Don't know; Can the disease prevented ? 5.56-Yes, 22.22 were No, 72.22 were Don't know; Is HIV is Sexually transmitted disease ? 33.33-Yes, 22.22-No, 44.44-Don't know; Can HIV be transmitted by contaminated blood?

31.48-Yes , 20.37-No, 48.15-Don't know; Can HIV be transmitted by Kissing ?-35.19 Yes, 16.67-No, 48.15-Don't know; Can HIV be transmitted by sharing food ?-24.07 Yes , 35.19-No, 40.74-Don't know. From our study we have found that though there awareness of the disease HIV is good but the availability of preventive services by HIV testing so subsequent administration drugs for prevention is very low even some misbelieves about transmission of the disease still persists like it transmit by sharing food or transmitted casual hugging or shaking. This was similar to Yohannes Ejigu *et al...*<sup>14</sup> they found Uptake of HIV testing during pregnancy is low. Missed opportunity among women who had antenatal care visits was very high. Integrating HIV testing with antenatal care services, improving HIV testing service quality and access are essential to increase uptake of HIV testing during pregnancy and reach the goal of eliminating MTCT.

## CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from our study that the awareness regarding the PPTCT services with respective to HIV testing during the ANC period was very low so the awareness of it should be increased so that the transmission of HIV from mother to fetus can be done effectively.

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Source of Support: None Declared  
Conflict of Interest: None Declared