

SCREENING AND TREATMENT OF ASYMPTOMATIC BACTERIURIA IN PREGNANCY

Thesis

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LIST OF ABRREVIATIONS

AIDs Acquired Immunodeficiency syndrome

ASB Asymptomatic bacteriuria

Bid Twice daily

CFU Colony forming unit

CT Computed Tomography

G6PD Glucose-6-Phosphate Deficiency

GFR Glomerular filtration rate

IVP Intravenous pyelogram

MRI Magnetic Resonance Imaging

ORs Odds Ratios

po Per os

qid Four times daily

tid Three times daily

TMP-SMX Trimethoprim Sulphamethoxazole

UTI Urinary tract infection

WHO World Health Organization

ABSTRACT

Asymptomatic bacteruria in pregnancy is defined as the presence of a significant amount of bacterial growth in a urine culture taken from a urine sample and the absence of symptoms of urinary infection such as pain or urgency. The aim of this work is to assess the prevalence of asymptomatic bacteruria in pregnant ladies attending Bani-Sueif University Hospitals, obstetrics and gynecology outpatient clinic. All patients were followed up through 2 visits: 1st visit (6th-10th weeks) & 2nd visit (22nd-24th weeks). Then follow up visit for 2nd culture after the initial treatment and another course of antibiotic given for those still positive. All patients with ASB were classified into 2 groups: Group (1): received single dose antimicrobial agent according to the result of culture and sensitivity test e.g. Amoxicillin-Clavulanic Acid/ Nitrofurantoin/ Cefalexin). Group (2): received multiple doses antimicrobial agents according to the result of culture & sensitivity test for 3 days. Then culture and sensitivity repeated one week after the course of antibiotic is finished and the results of the two groups were compared. All antimicrobials were chosen according to the result of culture & sensitivity with safety of use during pregnancy assured. The antibiotic sensitivity patterns showed that most of the bacterial isolates were sensitive to amox-clav, cephalexin, and nitrofurantoin. There are different regimens in treating asymptomatic bacteriuria during pregnancy, of them single day course and three days course.

Key words: Asymptomatic bacteriuria- culture and sensitivity- urinary tract infection

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INTRODUCTION

Asymptomatic bacteruria in pregnancy is defined as the presence of a significant amount of bacterial growth in a urine culture taken from a urine sample(**U.S. National Library of Medicine; National Institute of Health,2006**)and the absence of symptoms of a urinary infection such as pain or urgency (*Sescor et al.,2003*).

Asymptomatic bacteruria occurs in approximately 2% to 14% of pregnant women and 80,000 to 400,000 cases occur each year in the United States (**Mittal , 2005**).

Pregnant women are at increased risk for UTI(starting in week 6 through week 24), because of stasis of urine, and the bacteria in the urinary tract from relative obstruction, that is caused by the physiological changes during pregnancy that predispose women to bacteruria. These physiological changes include the dilatation of the ureters secondary to progesterone, and to the mechanical obstruction from the gravid uterus later in pregnancy. Glycosuria, proteinuria, and aminoaciduria were found in pregnancy, also facilitate bacterial growth(**Jones, 2009**).

Without treatment, 20% to 40% of asymptomatic bacteruria cases among pregnant women progress to pyelonephritis, a serious kidney infection. Pyelonephritis complicates 1% to 2% of all pregnancies and affects 100,000 women each year (**Mittal,2005**).It is also a leading cause of antepartum hospitalization. With appropriate screening and treatment, only 3% of bacteruria cases will progress to pyelonephritis(**Mittal, 2005**).

Also it increases the risk for preterm delivery and low birth weight and may also increase the risk of fetal and perinatal mortality (**Calogne, 2004**). In fact, the risk of preterm delivery is twice as high among women who had asymptomatic bacteriuria at some point during pregnancy compared to those who did not (**Mittal, 2005**). Prevalence of asymptomatic bacteriuria (ASB) in those with premature uterine contractions and others with no history of uterine contractions were 23.5% and 16.9% respectively. A highly significant association between ASB of the mothers and preterm labor was noted (**El-Sokkary M, 2011**).

Risk factors for asymptomatic bacteriuria during pregnancy include low socioeconomic status, urinary tract infections (UTIs) in childhood. Other risk factors include preexisting medical conditions such as diabetes, sickle cell disease, immunosuppression (e.g., HIV/AIDS), urinary tract anatomic anomalies, and spinal cord injuries. UTIs experienced before pregnancy are predictive of the diagnosis of asymptomatic bacteriuria at the first prenatal visit (**Mittal, 2005**).

Escherichia coli is the most common cause of urinary tract infection, causing eighty to ninety percent of cases. It originates from fecal flora that colonize the periurethral area (ascending infection). *Klebsiella*, *Enterobacter* and *Proteus* species cause most of the remaining cases. Gram-positive organisms, particularly *Enterococcus faecalis* and group B streptococcus, are also important pathogens. Infection with *Staphylococcus saprophyticus*, an aggressive community acquired organism can present with upper urinary tract disease and the infection is more likely to be persistent or recurrent (**Viller et al., 2000**).

Clinical trials demonstrated important reduction in many of adverse effects by proper screening and treatment by antibiotics as amoxicillin, cephoperazone and nitrofurantoin (**Krcmery et al., 2001**).

ANATOMICAL CHANGES OF THE URINARY TRACT DURING PREGNANCY

1- KIDNEY CHANGES

Information about renal anatomy during normal pregnancy is limited, but it appears that the kidney becomes larger. Autopsy studies are obviously scarce, but in one unique and large series (Sheehan , 1973) combined kidney weights of normotensive women dying during or shortly after gestation were higher than normal values for nonpregnant individuals. However, details about the cause of death, which could have affected kidney weights, were limited. Renal weight also increases during pregnancy in rats, the evidence suggesting that is due to increased water content, as renal dry weights are similar in gravid and nonpregnant rats. (Baylis , 1994) . In one study in which renal biopsy specimens were obtained from normal gravidas (usually during cesarean section), the light microscopic appearance was described as similar to that in nonpregnant subjects (Lindheimer, 1985). But data from both autopsy material and renal biopsies performed in the last trimester on 12 Normal gravidas suggested that glomerular size, but not number of cells, may be increased in pregnant women (Strevens et al., 2003). Detailed descriptions of the kidneys of normal pregnant women or animals using electron microscopic or immunofluorescence techniques are not available. Starting in the first trimester, overall renal dimensions length, width, and thickness increase and peak during the third trimester at 1 cm above prepregnant values

(Cietak & Newton, 1985). These changes, documented by ultrasonography and pyelography, translate into an overall increase in renal volume of 50% by the end of pregnancy (Cietak & Newton, 1985). Both renal parenchymal and pelvicalyceal volumes enlarge, although the latter typically begins to rise somewhat later during the second trimester. Renal parenchymal volume enlarges most likely due to increases in both vascular and interstitial fluid volume, there is little evidence for cellular hyperplasia or hypertrophy (Lindheimer, 1985). Renal size and volume estimated by ultrasonography or pyelography in the immediate puerperium are also increased (Cietak & Newton, 1985).

Of interest, roentgenograms performed shortly after delivery and repeated six months later demonstrated that renal length had decreased by 1 cm between the two exams (Lindheimer & Katz, 1985). The well-documented dilation of the upper ureter, renal pelvis, major and minor calyces, which affects the vast majority of gravidas at term, is particularly prevalent on the right side (Conrad, 1992). Consequently, urinary stasis and hydronephrosis (either with or without calyceal clubbing) are common physiological occurrences in human pregnancy (Cietak & Newton, 1985) and usually do not reflect pathologic obstruction. Although the more severe signs of this physiological obstruction resolve at least by 6 weeks after delivery, evidence for urinary stasis persists in many women at 12 weeks postpartum.

2- THE UERTER

The causes of the ureteral dilation are controversial. Both humoral changes and mechanical obstruction have been implicated. Smooth muscle relaxation occurs in several organs during pregnancy, and some authors reported ureteral dilation in nonpregnant humans and animals administered estrogen or progestin derivatives (**Lindheimer & Katz, 1985**). Ureteral dilation may occur in primates with placentas that secrete hormones but absent fetuses (**Lindheimer & Katz, 1985**) and ultrasonography shows that the ureter dilates before the uterus has enlarged sufficiently to cause obstruction (**Cietak & Newton, 1985**) nor is the dilation relieved by prolonged catheterization (**Lindheimer & Katz, 1985**). The obstructive theory is supported by the observations of marked exacerbation of intraureteral pressure when third trimester gravidas were in a supine or standing position, and significant amelioration upon removal of the obstructive influence of the gravid uterus by placing the subject in the lateral decubitus or knee-chest position, or by cesarean delivery of the fetus (**Rubi & Sala, 1968**). Moreover, the increased pressure was noted only above the pelvic brim (**Mattingly & Borkowf, 1978**). These data are supported by the elegant studies of Dure-Smith (**Dure-Smith, 1970**) who combined *in vivo* and postmortem observations and concluded that ureteral dilation stops at the level of the true bony pelvic brim where the ureter crosses the iliac artery (Figure 2). At that junction, one may see a pyelographic filling defect, called the "iliac sign". Although compelling, the data are not conclusive, because Waldeyer's sheath, a connective tissue

enveloping the ureters as they enter the true pelvis, hypertrophies during pregnancy and could restrict hormone-induced dilatation below the pelvic brim. A related theory is that dilation of the ovarian and uterine veins (especially those on the right) during pregnancy obstructs the ureters (**Rasmussen & Nielsen, 1988**). The “ovarian vein syndrome” (ureteral colic ascribed to obstruction secondary to enlargement of the ovarian vein) was described in a patient taking oral contraceptives, an observation that combines the humoral and obstructive theories. Also supporting obstruction as a cause of the physiological dilation is the occurrence of an “overdistention” syndrome in late gestation (**Fainaru et al., 2002**). This clinical entity caused by exaggerated ureteral dilation is characterized by marked hydronephrosis, abdominal pain, increases in serum creatinine, and in some cases, hypertension (**Satin et al., 1993**). Some of these patients were successfully managed with ureteral stents, which were removed postpartum without recurrence of signs and symptoms (**Sonnenberg et al., 1992**).

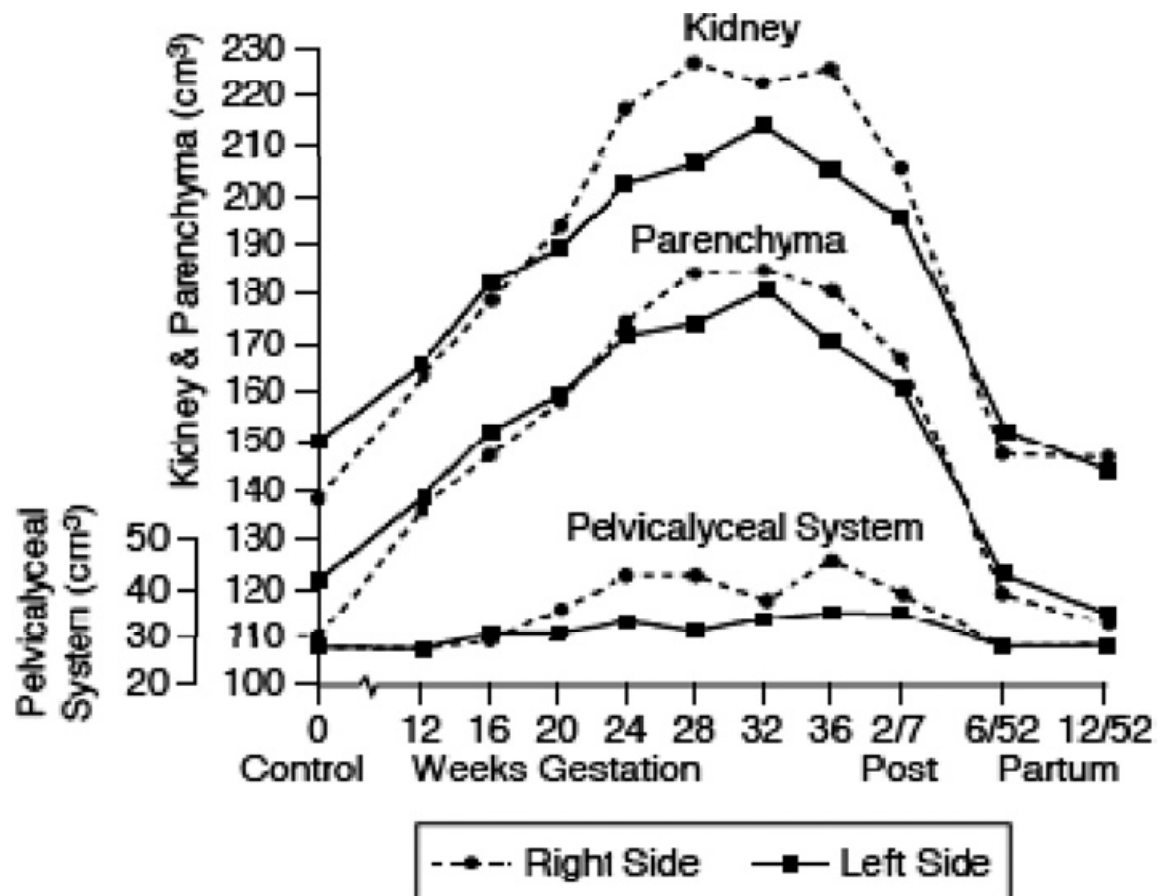


Figure (1) :Quantitative determination by nephrosonography of total renal and pelvic volumes, as well as the calculated difference of the two, parenchymal volume, in 34 primigravid women throughout pregnancy and in the postpartum period. The volumes were calculated by the ellipsoid formula, $\text{volume} = \text{length} \times \text{width} \times \text{thickness} \times 0.5233$. 2/7, 6/52, and 12/52 designated day 2, and weeks 6 and 12 postpartum, respectively (Cietak & Newton, 1985).