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TITLE

SEROPREVALENCE OF BRUCELLOSIS AMONG WOMEN WITH MISCARRIAGE IN ZARIA NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Brucellosis has attracted little or no attention in non-veterinary medical practices though risk factors for transmission are prevalent in subSaharan Africa with miscarriage as a common manifestation .

OBJECTIVE: To determine the seroprevalence of brucellosis among women with spontaneous miscarriage.

STUDY SETTING: A tertiary teaching hospital in Nigeria.

PATIENTS: Women that presented with miscarriage.

METHODOLOGY: A descriptive cross-sectional study of one hundred and twenty one women managed for spontaneous miscarriage . Blood samples were obtained and analyzed for brucella IgG and IgM using indirect ELISA kits.

OUTCOME MEASURE: Percentage of patients with positive test for recent and chronic brucella infection.

Results: The seroprevalence of brucellosis was 19.0%; 17.4% of the subjects had recent infection; and 1.7% had chronic infection. Age, history of previous miscarriage, consumption of milk products, consumption of roasted meat/barbecue had significant positive relationships with recent brucella infection ($\chi^2 = 9.706$, $p = 0.046$; $\chi^2 = 7.300$, $p = 0.026$; $\chi^2 = 3.169$, $p = 0.049$; $\chi^2 = 3.012$, $p = 0.050$ respectively). Chronic brucella infection had a positive relationship with number of pregnancies subjects have had ($\chi^2 = 8.036$, $p = 0.018$). Regression analyses showed that age, history of previous miscarriage and history of recent miscarriage in domestic animals reared are positively correlated with brucella seropositivity and spontaneous miscarriage ($\chi^2 = 13.200$, $p = 0.022$; $\chi^2 = 9.795$, $p = 0.007$; $\chi^2 = 7.890$, $p = 0.005$ respectively).

Conclusion: There is high prevalence of brucellosis among women with spontaneous miscarriage in Zaria. The burden of the disease should be appreciated and accorded due recognition. Routine testing in cases of miscarriage and in early pregnancy assessment is advocated.

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