

RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OCCURRENCE OF BACTERIAL VAGINOSIS AMONG THE REPRODUCTIVE AGE GROUP FEMALES IN TIRANA

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Abstract

Bacterial vaginosis is the most common type of vaginal infection among women of reproductive age and accounted for at least one-third of all vulvovaginal infections. The main aim of this prospective study was to determine the risk factors that may be associated with the occurrence of bacterial vaginosis among the reproductive age group females in Tirana.

A total of 120 hundred married, nonpregnant females in the reproductive age group who complained of one or more symptoms suggesting lower genital tract infection were enrolled and agreed to be part of this study. Subjects were seen in a walked in Women Health Clinic, Tirana, Albania during 01 October 2013 – 01 June 2015. Detailed history of the subjects was taken. Three high vaginal swabs were obtained after informed consent of the patients. Bacterial vaginosis was diagnosed on the basis of Amsel's clinical criteria and Nugent's Gram stain scoring method. Data was statistically analyzed using Chi-square test.

Our study found prevalence of bacterial vaginosis to be 52.5% or 63 subjects out of 120 subjects total sample study population by Amsel's criteria and 47.5% or 57 subjects out of 120 subjects total sample study population by Nugent's criteria respectively. Significant association was found between bacterial vaginosis and age, socioeconomic status, parity and contraceptives. However, no significant association was found between duration of marriage and stage of the menstrual cycle.

A relatively higher prevalence rate of bacterial vaginosis was found in the population under study, which may be attributed to factors like low socioeconomic status and unhygienic practices. Barrier contraception was found to be an effective method for prevention of transmission of bacterial vaginosis. However, more studies respectively with large population sample may be needed to obtain more solid data, so that a preventive strategy can be planned.

Keywords: *Bacterial vaginosis, risk factors, reproductive age, prevalence*