INFECTIONS SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED AND HIV; KNOWLEDGE, ATITTUDES AND PRACTICES AS RISK FACTORS OF TRANSMISSION IN PREGNANT WOMEN PATIENTS AT HEALTH CENTER IN XAI-XAI CITY, MOZAMBIQUE

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Sexually transmitted infections, including vaginal infections are among the most common public health problems worldwide. Female and male infertility, mother to child transmission, causing miscarriages or congenital disease, and increased risk for Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection (HIV) are some of their consequences. In Sub-Saharan Africa countries, such as Mozambique, the prevalence of these infections is high, women being those who carry the higher burden.

Thus we developed this cross-sectional study with objective of characterizing some sexually transmitted infections, HIV infection, syphilis, trichomoniasis, bacterial vaginosis and candidosis in preganant women, verifying if their management was in accordance with guildelines and recommendations in the country and identifying associated risk factors.

Samples were colected from 253 pregnant women attending Centro de Saúde de Maxixe. Vaginal samples were obtained and observed microscopically by wet mount and direct microscopic examination (Trichomonas vaginalis) and Gram stain (bacterial vaginosis and candida sp). HIV antibody testing was perfomed with the tests Determine HIV-1/2 and Uni-Gold™ and against, *T. pallidum* by RPR, SD BIOLINE Syphilis 3.0 and Determine TP tests in plasma samples. In this study, 11.1% of the pregnant women were infected with HIV, 2.8% with active syphilis, 12.3% with bacterial vaginosis, 5.1% with *Trichomonas vaginalis* and 9.1% with yeast. Antibodies against T. pallidum were identified in 8,3% of these women. In relation to HIV,7,5% of them were new cases.

The highest prevalence of these infections was found in the age groups: 27-31 for HIV infection and *Trichomonas vaginalis* while 17-21 for *Treponema pallidum*, Candida sp and bacterial vaginosis infections.

Samples were taken from 253 pregnant women attending ante-natal outpatient consultation at the health center, who were informed about the nature of the study and submitted to a semi-structured interview after signing the free informed consent.

In this study, the inconsistency on condoms use and the existence of multiple partners by the participants contributing for these infections transmission.

Participants have shown that they had infections about these infections modes of transmission, as also which measures to use to prevent them.

A significant number of women present with any symptom related to infections that were diagnosed to them, proving that the use of syndromic approach in vaginal discharge must be given some thaught in relation to its value in this situation.

The data obtained in this study shows that some gaps also exist in the prenatal care clinics of this Centre, from routine procedures that are not performed in accordance with MISAU recommendations.

The high prevalence of some STI found in this population, their risk behaviour, together with the non-observance of some guidelines in the management of those infections by the health personal very worrying.

The implementation of a teaching programm on quality control, prevention and management of these infections by the health professional seems to us to be of utmost importance, so these can act in accordance with the present guidelines and transmit a correct information to the pregnant women who attend prenatal care.

Key words: HIV, pregnant women, sexually transmitted infections, vaginal infections.