



# **Viral Status of Infants of Hepatitis C virus Seropositive Pregnant Mothers**

Thesis

Submitted for partial fulfillment of M.D degree in pediatrics.

By

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## **Abstract**

**Background:** Egypt has the highest prevalence of hepatitis C virus infection nowadays. HCV is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality all over the world. Children acquire the disease mainly via vertical transmission route.

**Aim of the study** was to evaluate the viral status in infants of HCV seropositive pregnant mothers and to determine the factors contributing for HCV acquisition and suspected risk factors for vertical HCV transmission.

**Patient and methods:** This cross-sectional study was conducted on 1000 pregnant women who came for delivery at the Obstetric and Gynecological department, Fayoum University Hospital. Structured questionnaires were used to obtain medical required data. They were tested for hepatitis marker (HCV antibody & HBsAg). Infants of HCV infected women were tested for HCV RNA using real time PCR test at age ranging from 2 to 18 months. Twenty-one infants of them were tested for HCV antibody.

**Results:** The prevalence of HCV antibody among pregnant women is 4.4%, 11, 11% of them had positive HCV RNA by PCR. 15 (1.5%) mothers out of 1000 participated mothers had positive HBsAg. Risk factors for HCV infection are old age, rural residence, circumcision, previous dental procedure, previous CS and husband and or other family member with HCV. All infants of HCV infected women had normal liver enzymes, at time of sampling. All 28 infants tested negative for HCV RNA by PCR. HCV antibody done for 21 infants was negative. **Conclusion:** the prevalence of HCV antibody among pregnant women was 4.4%. All infant tested negative for HCV RNA. Vertical transmission of HCV is not established as route of infection in our study.

**Keywords:** Hepatitis C virus, pregnancy, vertical transmission, HCV RNA, Infant.