



**BUSITEMA
UNIVERSITY**
Pursuing Excellence

**HEPATITIS B AND C VIRUS INFECTIONS AMONG PREGNANT
WOMEN ATTENDING ANTENATAL CLINIC AT MBALE
REGIONAL REFERRAL HOSPITAL**

**BY
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BU/UP/2017/1756**

**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY FACULTY
OF HEALTH SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT
FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
IN NURSING OF BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY**

JANUARY,2022

ABSTRACT

Background: Hepatitis B and C infections are associated with increased risks of maternal complications that include premature contractions, placenta previa, preterm delivery, placental separation, premature rupture of membranes, low birth weight, gestational diabetes mellitus and congenital anomalies. This study determined the prevalence of Hepatitis B and C Virus infections and associated factors among pregnant women attending Antenatal Clinic at Mbale Regional Referral Hospital.

Methods: The study was a hospital-based cross-sectional study that involved the screening of 200 pregnant women for HBV and HCV using ABOTT ARCHITECT i2000 SR for the qualitative detection of HBsAg and Anti-HCV in serum using Chemiluminescent Microparticle Immunoassay (CMIA) technology.

Results: Of the 200 pregnant women tested, 2 tested positive for the HBsAg giving a prevalence of 1% and 3 (1.5%) of the pregnant women tested positive for the Anti-HCV.

Conclusion and Recommendations: The prevalence of hepatitis B and C virus infections among study participants was low. During antenatal care, routine and mandatory screening of Hepatitis B and C Virus should be done.

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this research report is my own compilation and has never been submitted to any institution for any award.

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SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL

I hereby accept that this research report presented is the original work of the named student who has been under my supervision throughout the study period.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this research to my dear parents, Nyandera Teddy and Mungasa Shem for the support and love rendered to me during my study at the university.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge all those who made this research into being with humility and gratitude.

First and foremost, I thank the Almighty God for the gift of good health and making everything possible.

My sincere thanks go to my dear supervisors; Dr Iramiot Jacob Stanley and Sr Lydia Ssenyonga, for their tireless supervision of my work and guidance from the proposal stage to its completion.

Special thanks go to the administration of Mbale Regional Referral Hospital for permitting me to conduct the research in their facility and the entire staff of the Antenatal clinic of Mbale Regional Referral Hospital for the support rendered to me during the research period.

I thank the laboratory staff and administration of Mbale Regional Blood Bank for allowing me use their machines for testing samples.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

HBV	-	Hepatitis B Virus
HCV	-	Hepatitis C Virus
ELISA	-	Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay
CMIA	-	Chemiluminescence Microparticle Immunoassay
MTCT	-	Mother-To-Child Transmission
HBsAg	-	Hepatitis B surface Antigen
Anti-HCV	-	Antibodies against Hepatitis C virus
WHO	-	World Health Organization
MRRH	-	Mbale Regional Referral Hospital
RDT	-	Rapid Diagnostic Test
ANC	-	Antenatal care

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Hepatitis is an inflammatory condition of the liver

Vertical transmission is the spread of a pathogen from the mother to the baby during the period immediately before and after birth

Horizontal transmission is the spread of an infectious agent from one individual to another usually through contact with bodily fluids or excretions that contain the agent.

Perinatal period is the short period of time immediately before and after birth

Fulminant hepatitis is a clinical syndrome of rapid (usually within days or weeks) liver impairment usually caused by hepatitis viruses.

Hepatocellular carcinoma is a cancer arising from the liver cells

Antenatal care is the health care that is given to pregnant women throughout pregnancy until childbirth

Prevalence is the proportion of individuals in a population who have a particular disease over a specified period.

Co-infection is the simultaneous infection of a host by multiple pathogen species