Hispanics Less Likely to Get Prenatal GBS Screen

BY MIRIAM E. TUCKER
Senior Writer

Hispanic women and those who receive prenatal care at a hospital or clinic were less likely to be screened for group B streptococcus in North Carolina during 2002-2003, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported.

In 2002, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists jointly recommended universal prenatal screening for vaginal and rectal group B streptococcus (GBS) colonization at 35-37 weeks' gestation. The same year, the CDC began analyzing GBS screening rates in the North Carolina Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), a population-based monthly mail/telephone survey of randomly selected women in the state who have recently delivered a live-born infant.

The data comprise responses from 3,027 women who were included in the sample. In 2002, 70% reported having been tested for GBS during their most recent pregnancy, 11% said they had not been tested, and 19% did not know whether they had been tested. In 2003, those proportions were 74%, 8%, and 18%, respectively, the CDC reported (MMWR 2005:54:700-3).

Among the women who knew their GBS status, the factors significantly associated with lack of prenatal screening on multivariate analysis were Hispanic ethnicity, receipt of prenatal care primarily at a hospital clinic or health department (versus private physician/HMO), and lack of prenatal HIV testing. Those same factors also were associated with lack of knowledge of GBS screening on multivariate analysis, along with black race, other race, and Medicaid payment of delivery.

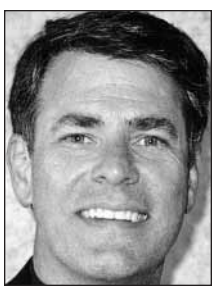
The incidence of invasive perinatal GBS disease in the United States declined 34% from 2002 to 2003, following the universal screening recommendation. Further efforts to reduce disparities in prenatal GBS screening among minority populations will be needed for continued progress, the CDC said. ■

Discuss Wine Consumption In Pregnancy

St. Pete Beach, Fla. — Take time to focus specifically on wine consumption when routinely questioning pregnant patients about their use of alcohol.

That was the message in a poster on a study of alcohol consumption during pregnancy presented at the annual meeting of the Teratology Society.

The prospective, clinic-based cohort study involved 4,494 women interviewed at their first prenatal visit. Of these, 16% reported signs consistent with alcohol abuse and dependence, and half of those reported steady or binge drinking during pregnancy, reported William Rayburn, M.D., of the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, and his colleagues.



A high percentage of wine drinkers continued their drinking after they learned they were pregnant.

DR. RAYBURN

A total of 208 women with signs of alcohol abuse or dependence completed the study, including a 1-month postpartum interview.

Wine was the beverage of choice for about 25% of participants. Those who drank wine tended to consume lower quantities of alcohol, but a high percentage (43%) of wine drinkers continued their wine drinking after becoming aware of their pregnancy. This was particularly true among older white women, who were significantly more likely than younger women and minorities to continue drinking after pregnancy awareness.

Wine is one of the most widely consumed alcoholic beverages among women of reproductive age, including those who are problem drinkers both before and after becoming aware of their pregnancy. Specifically discussing the matter of wine consumption with pregnant patients is worthwhile, the researchers said.

—Sharon Worcester