

study was conducted in Jinnah hospital Lahore from May 2014 to September 2014. Total 200 (n=200) pregnant females aged between 18-40 years, were selected using simple random sampling technique from Gynecology unit. Blood samples were collected from every pregnant female for the determination of HBV & HCV.

Blood specimen was collected from the anti-cubital vein without venous stasis using a dry disposable sterile syringe. 3 ml of blood was collect into EDTA tubes. The sample was labelled with patient's age, sex sand laboratory number. Testing of HBV and HCV was done by immunochromatographic (ICT) method. The results were entered and analyzed on SPSS 19.

3. Results

A total number of 200 women of the Gynecology ward of the Jinnah hospital were included in this study and they were tested for Hepatitis B & C. Mean age group of the women was 18-40 years. The Sero-positivity of HCV was 12.5% as shown in (Table and Figure 1) and Sero-positivity of Hepatitis B was found to be 1.5% as shown in (Table and Figure 2).

Table 1: Table Showing Results of HCV

| HCV | Frequency | Percent |
|----------|-----------|---------|
| Positive | 25 | 12.5 |
| Negative | 175 | 87.5 |
| Total | 200 | 100.0 |

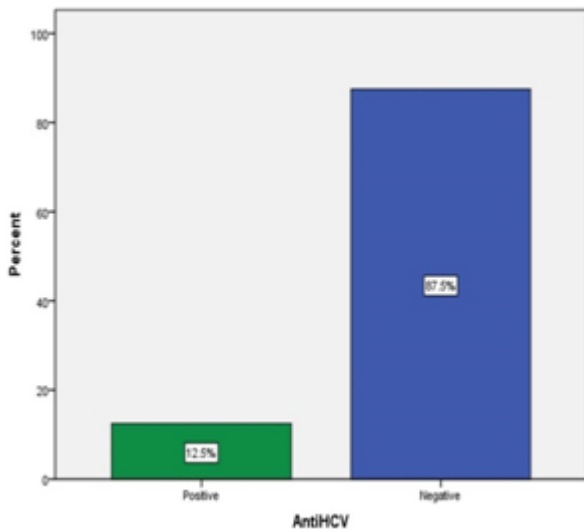


Figure 1: Figure Showing Results of HCV

Table 2: Table Showing Results of HBsAg

| HBsAg | Frequency | Percent (%) |
|----------|-----------|-------------|
| Positive | 3 | 1.5 |
| Negative | 197 | 98.5 |
| Total | 200 | 100.0 |

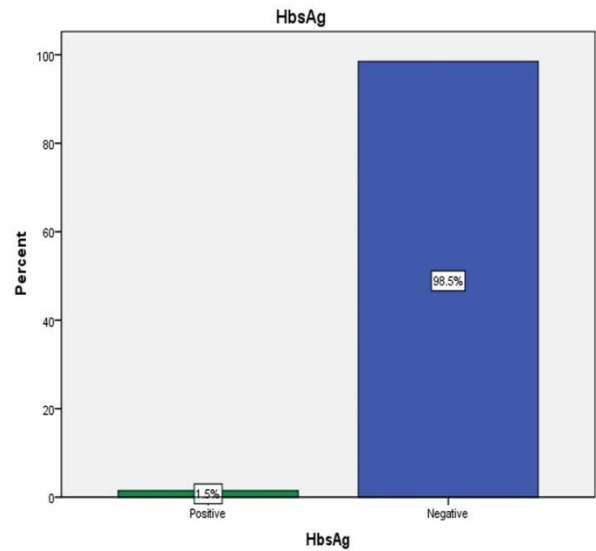


Figure 2: Figure Showing Results of HBsAg

36.0% HCV found between age group 18-25 years, 52.0% HCV found between the age group 26-32 and, 12.0% were found between 33-40 age group as shown in (Table and Figure 3).

Table 3: Table Showing Age Groups of HCV Positive Patients

| Age Groups | Frequency | Percent (%) |
|------------|-----------|-------------|
| 18-25 | 9 | 36.0 |
| 26-32 | 13 | 52.0 |
| 33-40 | 3 | 12.0 |
| Total | 25 | 100.0 |

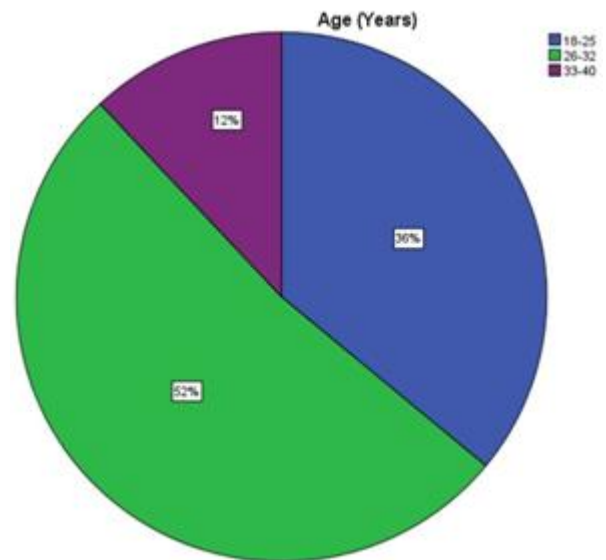


Figure 3: Figure Showing Age Groups of HCV Positive Patients

4. Discussion

This study has indicated a link between hepatitis and different maternal and perinatal complications. HBV & HCV are the major infections all over the world. In infected pregnant females these infections arises the possibility to transfer HBV and HCV infection to their infants (Fomulu, 2013) According to World Health Organization, In Southeast

Asia, an average person receives four injections per year, among most of which are needless and up to 75% are risky or reused (Khokhar, 2004).

In United States the occurrence of Hepatitis B and C is found to be 0.5 to 1.5% and 1% respectively (Munoz, 2005). In Pakistan there are 1.5 million blood product unit transfused each year which represents a great risk for the spread of HBV and HCV infections (Kazi, 1999). A previous study conducted in Lahore on pregnant females show anti-HCV positivity of 7.3% and HBsAg positivity of 2.2% (Batool, 2008). In our study the prevalence of HBV

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infections was 1.5% and the prevalence of hepatitis C is 12.5% which is in accordance with the previous studies.

5. Conclusion

There is an increased prevalence rate of HCV than HBsAg in pregnant females. Additional studies are required to explain the increased prevalence of anti-HCV and infection among pregnant females. Awareness campaigns regarding the route of transmission of HBV and HCV and vaccination of HBV can reduce the risk of their spread and save mothers and offspring from these deadly infections.

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