

4036596 PPH/M : MAJOR : INFECTIOUS DISEASES ; M.Sc. (PUBLIC HEALTH)

KEY WORDS : HBV SEROMARKERS / EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS  
/ HUSBANDS OF POSTPARTUM WOMEN / HBsAg STATUS

ATCHARA MOOKTARAGOSA : HEPATITIS B VIRUS SEROMARKERS AND  
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS IN HUSBANDS OF HBsAg-POSITIVE  
AND HBsAg-NEGATIVE POSTPARTUM WOMEN. THESIS ADVISORS : PIPAT  
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SINGHANATI, B.Sc. 121 p. ISBN 974-662-717-1

At present, sexual transmission of hepatitis B virus (HBV) from one person in a couple to the other seems to be the main mode of transmission in adults. The study that determines the prevalence of HBV infection and associated factors in spouses of HBV carriers should serve to monitor and control the spread of HBV infection between spouses and may be applied for the premarital group. The 80 husbands of HBsAg-positive postpartum women and 87 husbands of HBsAg-negative ones, admitted at postpartum wards during July to November 1998, were interviewed and their blood specimens were collected for detecting HBsAg, anti-HBs, and anti-HBc by an enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay (ELISA). The results revealed that the prevalences of anti-HBs, anti-HBc and HBV infection in husbands of HBsAg-positive postpartum women were significantly higher than those in husbands of HBsAg-negative women ( $p < 0.05$ ). The prevalence of HBsAg in husbands of HBsAg-positive postpartum women was higher than that in husbands of HBsAg-negative ones (15.00 % vs. 10.34 %), but the difference was not significant ( $p = 0.1814$ ). Most epidemiological characteristics between the two studied husband groups showed no significant difference ( $p > 0.05$ ), except the history of daily alcohol drinking ( $p = 0.0069$ ). However, the mean scores on attitude in husbands of HBsAg-positive postpartum women was significantly higher than that in husbands of HBsAg-negative ones by t-test ( $p < 0.05$ ). Stratified statistical analysis by status of HBsAg in postpartum women was done and showed that the history of contact with jaundice patients, the duration of marriage and the history of having STDs were significantly associated with HBV infection in studied husbands ( $p < 0.05$ ).