

Abstract

Objective: To evaluate the pattern of medical care of hepatitis B virus (HBV) carriers during pregnancy and after delivery in Hong Kong, and the factors affecting the medical care of these women.

Study design: Retrospective analysis

Methods: ~~Pregnancy~~ Pregnant HBV carriers ~~–women~~ and their infants were followed up at 9-12 months after delivery. A face-to-face interview was conducted to enquire their medical care attendance for ~~of~~ HBV check-up prior to, during and after pregnancy.

Results: Data were available in 412 HBV carriers. 375 (91.0%) women were known HBV carriers prior to pregnancy. Routine screening during the antenatal period picked up the remaining 37 (9.0%) carriers and they were younger, more likely to be smokers and had a lower education level ($p < 0.05$). 356/412 (86.4%)

HBV ~~carriers infected women~~ did not ~~have attend the~~ medical care for HBV during pregnancy. Known HBV carrier status, history of medical checkup and use of antiviral treatment prior to pregnancy were significant predictors for medical care during pregnancy ($p < 0.05$). 217/412 (52.6%) HBV ~~carriers infected women~~ did not ~~have receive HBV~~ medical care after delivery. Medical ~~carecheckup~~ before pregnancy, use of antiviral treatment prior to pregnancy and higher education level were significant predictors for postpartum medical care ($p < 0.05$). Multivariate analysis showed medical care prior to the pregnancy (OR 7.73, 95%CI 3.21–18.65, $p < 0.001$) and use of antiviral treatment (OR 5.02, 95%CI 1.41–17.81, $p = 0.013$) were associated with medical care during pregnancy. Medical care prior to the pregnancy ~~was~~ also associated with postpartum medical care (OR 5.05, 95%CI 3.29–7.51, $p < 0.001$).

Conclusion: A significant proportion of HBV carriers did not ~~have receive~~ medical ~~checkup care~~ during and after pregnancy in Hong Kong, despite ~~the~~

majority ~~of them~~ were aware of their ~~HBV~~ carrier status. Medical care prior to ~~the~~ pregnancy predicted ~~the~~ antenatal and postpartum medical care.

Keywords: Hepatitis B virus; Infection; Infectious Disease Transmission,

Vertical; Pregnancy

Introduction

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection is the most common form of chronic hepatitis in the world. It is a World Health Organization's goal to eradicate HBV infection by 2030 by promoting adequate prevention and effective treatment.¹ The risk of acquiring chronic infection is highest during the perinatal period² and active and passive immunization to the newborns of HBV carriers can effectively decrease the risk of vertical transmission.³ However, HBV infection is still endemic in Asia.⁴ The prevalence of HBV infection has been decreasing in Hong Kong after since the implementation of universal HBV vaccination in 1988.⁵ The persistence of HBV infection could be due to immunoprophylaxis failure,⁶ which occurs in 1-4% of infants s of HBV carriers.⁷⁻⁹ Appropriate medical evaluation of pregnant HBV carriers is essential to decrease the risk of immunoprophylaxis failure by initiating antiviral treatment in late pregnancy, and, which also facilitates monitoring for-of postpartum hepatic flare after delivery. However, little research has focused on the pattern and the predictors to medical care of HBV carriers during and after pregnancy of HBV carriers. In the United States, a retrospective

review ~~of the data of the~~ ~~from a~~ health care system in Massachusetts found 53% of newly diagnosed HBV carriers ~~did had~~ not received specialist care for HBV after delivery.¹⁰ Another retrospective cohort study using aggregate database ~~of in~~ Massachusetts also revealed half of the HBV carriers ~~did had~~ not received postpartum laboratory testing.¹¹ In Hong Kong, ~~the government provides~~ free antenatal ~~and medical~~ care ~~is provided to for all~~ pregnant women ~~and~~. Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) is ~~tested for every pregnant woman screened~~ during the booking visit ~~in~~ early ~~in the~~ pregnancy. However, there is no ~~existing~~ local guidelines ~~for on~~ maternal HBV DNA testing, referral to hepatologist / gastroenterologist for follow up and infants' testing for HBV status. Our aim is to evaluate the medical care of HBV carriers during and after pregnancy in Hong Kong, and the factors affecting the care of these women.

Methods:

The data of medical care during and after pregnancy ~~was were~~ collected from a ~~previously conducted~~ prospective ~~multicenter~~ observational study ~~previously~~

~~conducted,~~⁹ ~~to-which~~ evaluated the factors leading to immunoprophylaxis failure.

~~It studied-recruited women-~~ between January 2014 to December 2016 at five

public regional hospitals in Hong Kong, including Kwong Wah Hospital, Queen

Elizabeth Hospital, Queen Mary Hospital, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern

Hospital and Tuen Mun Hospital. All women gave a written informed consent and

were enrolled under protocols approved by the Institutional Review Board of

each hospital. A total of 29,431 women were booked for delivery in the five ~~study-~~

hospitals within the recruitment period and 1,592 women (5.4%) were HBsAg

positive. Among the 750 subjects in the original study, 412 women provided their

attendance of HBV check-up prior to, during and after pregnancy. They were

recruited into this retrospective study.

Basic demographics and clinical details were recorded ~~with their written~~

~~informed consent~~, which included the age, race, gravida, parity, education level,

smoking, drinking, and human immunodeficiency virus status. Referral to

hepatologist/gastroenterologist was offered at the discretion of the attending

obstetricians. At 9-12 months after delivery, HBsAg of infants was examined and

~~a face-to-face interview by a research assistant was conducted to collect~~ the information on the pattern of maternal follow up for HBV during pregnancy and after delivery ~~was enquired by a face-to-face interview by a research assistant.~~

Medical care was defined by any formal consultation for HBV disease with primary practitioner, hepatologist or gastroenterologist with or without laboratory testing. This study received ethical approval from Institutional Review Board of the University of Hong Kong/Hospital Authority Hong Kong West Cluster.

Data analysis was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 22.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp). Results were presented as mean (standard deviation (SD)) or number (n) (%). Student's t test was used for continuous variables that were normally distributed and the Mann-Whitney U test for skewed data. Chi-square test or Fisher Exact test was used for dichotomous outcomes. Binary logistic multiple regression was performed on those factors showinged statistical significance in univariate

analysis to further investigate the predictors of attendance of medical follow-ups.

Results were considered statistically significant when $p < 0.05$.

Result

The basic demographics of 412 HBV carriers were shown in Table 1. A total of 375 women (91.0%) were known HBV carriers before pregnancy. Of these, 168 women (44.8%) did not have medical care prior to pregnancy. They had a higher gravida (2.4 vs. 1.8) and parity (0.7 vs. 0.4), and less-fewer antiviral treatment use before pregnancy (0.6% vs. 4.8%) ~~-when~~ compared with ~~to~~ those who had having follow up before ~~the~~ pregnancy ($p < 0.05$) (Table 2). 37 carriers (9.0%) discovered their HBV status during routine antenatal checkup. They were younger (31.1 years vs. 33.0 years), more likely to be a smoker or ex-smoker (13.5% vs. 4.0%) and had a lower education level (91.9% vs. 65.1% with secondary or lower education) when compared with the known HBV carriers ($p < 0.05$) (Table 2).

356 (86.4%) and 217 (52.6%) HBV carriers did not have medical care for HBV during and after pregnancy respectively. The predictors were shown in Table 3.

Known HBV carrier status (98.2% vs. 89.9%), medical checkup (87.5% vs. 44.4%) and use of antiviral treatment (10.7% vs. 1.4%) prior to pregnancy were significant predictors for having medical care during pregnancy ($p < 0.05$).

Medical checkup (71.3% vs. 31.3%), use of antiviral treatment prior to pregnancy (5.6% vs. 0%) and higher education level (tertiary or above) (38.0% vs. 27.7%) were significant predictors for postpartum medical care ($p < 0.05$) (Table 3).

On multivariate analysis (Table 4), only higher education level (tertiary or above) was positively associated with HBV awareness before pregnancy (OR 5.31, 95% CIs 1.59 – 17.88, $p = 0.007$). A higher chance of [attendance to attending](#) medical care during pregnancy was associated with medical care prior to pregnancy (OR 7.73, 95% CIs 3.21 – 18.65, $p < 0.001$) and use of antiviral treatment (OR 5.02, 95% CIs 1.41 – 17.81, $p = 0.013$). The attendance of medical care after pregnancy

was positively associated with medical care prior to pregnancy (OR 5.05, 95% CIs 3.29 – 7.51, $p < 0.001$).

In the 37 carriers who ~~did not know~~ were not aware of their HBV status prior to pregnancy, one and twelve carriers received HBV care during and after pregnancy respectively. All seven immunoprophylaxis failure cases were born ~~of~~ to known HBV carriers prior to pregnancy, of which only two received medical care before pregnancy and one ~~of them received medical care before and~~ during pregnancy respectively.

Discussion:

The results of this study demonstrated ~~that~~ a high proportion of HBV carriers ~~did not have~~ had not had medical care for HBV and the majority of them ~~did not~~ had not received d extra medical attention during pregnancy and after delivery. It is worth looking into the issue because antiviral treatment is recommended in highly viremic carriers during pregnancy to reduce the risk of HBV vertical

transmission. ~~Knowing there is also~~ possibility of hepatic flare after delivery ~~should also prompt one to offer and subsequent long-term~~ regular postnatal monitoring ~~of HBV status can to for these women in order to~~ allow timely intervention to prevent cirrhosis, hepatocellular carcinoma and mortality.^{12,13}

First of all, despite being aware of the HBV carrier status, ~~A~~ asymptomatic nature of HBV disease at an earlier stage could lead to poor ~~prohibit regular~~ disease surveillance, ~~despite being aware of the HBV status.~~¹⁴ Secondly, maternal, obstetrics and perinatal risks may be underestimated by the medical profession and general public. A meta-analysis did not show an increase in adverse pregnancy outcomes including preterm rupture of membranes, stillbirth, preeclampsia, gestational hypertension and antepartum haemorrhage.¹⁵ It was suggested that HBV carriers without other risk factors could be managed as low risk pregnancy.¹⁵ However, an increased risk of miscarriage¹⁶, gestational diabetes¹⁷ – and preterm delivery^{18,19} were shown by ~~two~~ cohort studies and other meta-analysis. Furthermore, maternal HBV flare up is possible during

pregnancy and maternal mortality has been reported.²⁰ Since the role of HBV DNA in predicting these complications remains unclear, the limited evidence from the literature may obviate the need of monitoring maternal HBV DNA and hence the involvement of hepatologist/ gastroenterologist during pregnancy. Finally, the knowledge of the obstetricians, hepatologists/ gastroenterologists and the HBV carriers may also contribute to the poor disease surveillance rate. In Hong Kong, only 67% and 58% of local women correctly recognized pregnancy and childbirth ~~was~~ a mode of HBV transmission.^{21, 22} Significant heterogeneity in the management of HBV carriers²³ and poor adherence to the guidelines²⁴ by medical physicians were noted. Only 69% of hepatologists and 42.2% non-hepatologist were “very comfortable” or “comfortable” in managing pregnant HBV carriers.²³ Obstetricians were also not familiar with the use of antiviral treatment during pregnancy²⁵ and more so for [primary care physicians](#) especially regarding fetal safety. All these may hinder the initiation ~~to discuss and discussion of~~ potential implications of HBV disease to the pregnancy among HBV carriers, medical physicians and the

obstetricians.

From the public health perspective, eradication of HBV disease should begin with early identification of HBV infected individuals, followed by offering

evidence-based disease surveillance strategy and treatment, and preventing

vertical and horizontal transmission. For early identification, the Center for

Disease Control and Prevention recommends universal screening of HBsAg in

pregnant women for HBsAg –during pregnancy.²⁶ This can recognize identify

HBV carriers who are unaware of their HBV statuses and their identify newborns

who require additional hepatitis B immunoglobulin at birth. Neonatal HBV

immunization program remains the most effective intervention to prevent

vertical transmission³. World Health Organization recommends all infants should

receive a course of HBV vaccination, with the first dose preferably within 24

hours²⁷. HBV viral load qualification during pregnancy is crucial to assess the

risk of immunoprophylaxis failure⁶ and. The use of antiviral treatment in highly

viremic HBV women in late pregnancy could reduce the risk of

~~immunoprophylaxis failure which is recommended by. Various authorities-~~
~~published their recommendations on antiviral treatment to highly viremic-~~
~~women.~~^{12, 13} Multidisciplinary care ~~during pregnancy~~ involving hepatologists/
gastroenterologists ~~during pregnancy~~ is necessary because they are more likely
to provide timely and appropriate HBV disease assessment, monitoring and
treatment when compared with primary care physicians.^{24, 28} They can also
jointly inform the safety and efficacy of antiviral treatment during pregnancy.
Since ~~it is the~~ obstetricians ~~to~~ look after pregnant HBV carriers at the initial
encounter, ~~it is important for them to~~~~they may~~ ~~_~~ take ~~up~~ the responsibility to
initiate referral ~~of the women~~ to appropriate subspecialists for subsequent
management. Provision of medical care to HBV carriers and HBV ~~affected-~~
~~infected~~ infants should be continued after delivery by hepatologists/
gastroenterologists to look for maternal postpartum flare up²⁹ and provide long
term HBV disease surveillance. Health policies, such as checking HBV viral load
during pregnancy and referral to medical physicians for monitoring and
treatment, are proven to be cost-effective.³⁰⁻³² Therefore, ~~public health~~

practitioners and policy makers should employ this holisticcomprehensive approach during pregnancy, which pregnancy provides an excellent opportunity to eliminate HBV by breaking the chain at birth. Development of a national plan is often considered as the first indicator of political commitment towards HBV eradication.⁴ Financial support and resource allocation focusing on the management of HBV during pregnancy are necessary. However, practicality for practicing this multidisciplinary approach may be difficult in managing the HBV carriers during pregnancy remains an issue. It varies in different places because of different public health systems, expertise availability, financial support and resources. Local studies on financial impact of different preventive strategies should be encouraged to obtain reliable data to guide tailor-madeindividualized policy.⁴ Unfortunately, this ideal modal was not shown in our study.

Our study is the first study to evaluate the predictors of medical care among pregnant HBV carriers. We found pre-pregnancy medical care could be the key to improve the health care of HBV carriers during and after pregnancy. As the

~~pre-pregnancy medical care may improve the chance of medical care during and after pregnancy, government~~ Government should promote regular pre-pregnancy HBV disease surveillance and enhance public awareness and knowledge by launching educational programs. These may be achieved by using social media, short message service or 'apps' in mobile phone, which is widely available nowadays.³³ A referral and monitoring guideline ~~can help disease surveillance~~ at the primary care level can help disease surveillance and allow triage complicated cases, for example pregnant HBV carriers, ~~under to receive~~ subspecialist's care. ~~Guidelines have been setup for easy reference to policy markers.~~^{12, 13}

~~However, practicality for multidisciplinary approach in managing the HBV carriers during pregnancy remains an issue. It varies in different places because of different public health systems, expertise availability, financial support and resources. Development of a national plan is often considered as the first indicator of political commitment towards HBV eradication.⁴ Financial support~~

~~and resource allocation focusing on the management of HBV during pregnancy are necessary.~~ There are several limitations of our study. For the HBV carriers who received HBV related care during and after pregnancy, we did not know the exact details of the HBV care, whether they were under the care of hepatologists or primary care physiciansgeneral practitioners and ~~which laboratory investigationswhether liver function test and HBV DNA quantification~~ had been performed. Without these information, it would be difficult to guarantee a proper assessment even with multidisciplinary care.~~Therefore, proper medical evaluation cannot be guaranteed even with multidisciplinary care.~~¹¹ Maternal assessment with liver function test and HBV DNA could identify women at risk of hepatic flare up and immunoprophylaxis failure.~~This information~~The details of medical care could reflect the current ~~medical care management~~ of pregnant HBV carriers and provide data to guide policy planning or recommendation on their standard medical care of pregnant HBV carriers. We also did not evaluate the obstetric and perinatal outcomes related to medical care. The risk of preterm delivery and gestational diabetes are increased in HBV carriers, particularly in

women with active HBV disease (i.e. positive HBeAg or higher HBV DNA)^{19, 34}.

Whether the provision of medical care and early intervention in ~~the~~ pregnancy could alter these adverse pregnancy outcomes would require further evaluation.

Further research could focus on the evaluation of details of HBV medical care during pregnancy and the effect on pregnancy outcomes.

Conclusion

Our study is important to draw the attention to the deficiency in multidisciplinary care during pregnancy and lack of continuity of care after delivery. Eradication of HBV should begin with breaking the chain at birth and subsequent long term monitoring by practicing evidenced-based medicine and input from various stakeholders. However, a high proportion of HBV carriers in Hong Kong did not have medical care during and after pregnancy, despite ~~the~~ majority of them were aware of their HBV carrier status. Strategies to improve medical care during pregnancy and after delivery are needed.

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Statements of ethical approval

This study received ethical approval from Institutional Review Board of the University of Hong Kong/Hospital Authority Hong Kong West Cluster.

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Disclosure

The authors have stated explicitly that there are no conflicts of interest in connection with this article.

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<u>Table 1. Demographic data of subjects</u>				
	<u>All</u> (n=412)	<u>Positive</u> <u>HbeAg</u> (n=105)	<u>Negative</u> <u>HbeAg</u> (n=307)	<u>P value</u>
<u>Age (years)</u>	<u>32.9 (4.6)</u>	<u>31.5 (4.2)</u>	<u>33.3 (4.6)</u>	<u><0.001</u>
<u>Body mass index (kg/m²)</u>	<u>22.1 (3.0)</u>	<u>21.6 (3.0)</u>	<u>22.2 (3.1)</u>	<u>0.066</u>
<u>Gravida</u>	<u>2.1 (1.2)</u>	<u>1.92 (1.0)</u>	<u>2.1 (1.3)</u>	<u>0.164</u>
<u>Parity</u>	<u>0.5 (0.7)</u>	<u>0.4 (0.6)</u>	<u>0.5 (0.7)</u>	<u>0.250</u>
<u>Known hepatitis B carrier status before pregnancy</u>	<u>375 (91.0%)</u>	<u>97 (92.4%)</u>	<u>278 (90.6%)</u>	<u>0.572</u>
<u>Medical checkup for hepatitis B before pregnancy</u>	<u>207 (50.2%)</u>	<u>54 (51.4%)</u>	<u>153 (49.8%)</u>	<u>0.778</u>
<u>Chinese</u>	<u>409 (99.3%)</u>	<u>104 (99%)</u>	<u>305 (99.3%)</u>	<u>0.088</u>
<u>Smoker or ex-smoker</u>	<u>20 (4.8%)</u>	<u>7 (6.7%)</u>	<u>13 (4.2%)</u>	<u>0.317</u>
<u>Drinker</u>	<u>4 (1.0%)</u>	<u>0 (0%)</u>	<u>4 (1.3%)</u>	<u>0.240</u>
<u>Drug abuser</u>	<u>1 (0.2%)</u>	<u>0 (0%)</u>	<u>1 (0.3%)</u>	<u>0.558</u>
<u>Education</u>				<u>0.311</u>
<u>No</u>	<u>20 (4.9%)</u>	<u>8 (7.6%)</u>	<u>12 (3.9%)</u>	
<u>Primary</u>	<u>11 (2.7%)</u>	<u>4 (3.8%)</u>	<u>7 (2.3%)</u>	
<u>Secondary</u>	<u>247 (60.0%)</u>	<u>62 (59%)</u>	<u>185 (60.3%)</u>	

<u>Tertiary</u>	<u>129 (31.3%)</u>	<u>31 (29.5%)</u>	<u>98 (31.9%)</u>	
<u>Post tertiary</u>	<u>5 (1.2%)</u>	<u>0 (0%)</u>	<u>5 (1.6%)</u>	
<u>Human immunodeficiency virus infection</u>	<u>0 (0)</u>	<u>0 (0%)</u>	<u>0 (0%)</u>	<u>1.000</u>
<u>Use of antiviral treatment</u>	<u>11 (2.7%)</u>	<u>4 (3.8%)</u>	<u>7 (2.3%)</u>	<u>0.401</u>
<u>Mode of delivery</u>				<u>0.310</u>
<u>Normal spontaneous delivery</u>	<u>254 (61.7%)</u>	<u>70 (66.7%)</u>	<u>184 (59.9%)</u>	
<u>Vacuum extraction</u>	<u>27 (6.6%)</u>	<u>6 (5.7%)</u>	<u>21 (6.8%)</u>	
<u>Low forceps</u>	<u>9 (2.2%)</u>	<u>4 (3.8%)</u>	<u>5 (1.6%)</u>	
<u>Elective Caesarean section</u>	<u>59 (14.3%)</u>	<u>10 (9.5%)</u>	<u>49 (16%)</u>	
<u>Emergency Caesarean section</u>	<u>63 (15.3%)</u>	<u>15 (14.3%)</u>	<u>48 (15.6%)</u>	
<u>Immunoprophylaxis failure</u>	<u>7 (1.7%)</u>	<u>7 (6.7%)</u>	<u>0 (0%)</u>	<u><0.001</u>

	Known HBV carrier status before pregnancy			Medical checkup before pregnancy		
	No (n=37)	Yes (n=375)	p value	No (n=168)	Yes (n=207)	P value
	Mean (SD) or n (%)	Mean (SD) or n (%)		Mean (SD) or n (%)	Mean (SD) or n (%)	
Age (year)	31.1 (5.4)	33.0 (4.4)	0.015 [†]	32.7 (4.3)	33.3 (4.6)	0.198 [†]
BMI (kg/m ²)	22.2 (3.3)	22.0 (3.0)	0.711 [†]	22.0 (2.9)	22.1 (3.1)	0.956 [†]
Gravida	2.1 (1.3)	2.1 (1.2)	0.935 [†]	2.4 (1.2)	1.8 (1.2)	<0.001 [†]
Parity	0.5 (0.9)	0.5 (0.7)	0.936 [†]	0.7 (0.7)	0.35 (0.6)	<0.001 [†]
Maternal hepatitis B e antigen positive	8 (21.6)	97 (25.9)	0.572 [‡]	43 (25.6)	54 (26.1)	0.914 [‡]
Antiviral treatment before pregnancy	0 (0)	11 (2.9)	0.609 [§]	1 (0.6)	10 (4.8)	0.026 [§]
Smoker or ex-smoker	5 (13.5)	15 (4.0)	0.010	6 (3.6)	9 (4.3)	0.703 [‡]
Drinker	0 (0)	4 (1.1)	1.000 [§]	2 (1.2%)	2 (1.0)	1.000 [§]
Drug abuser	0 (0)	1 (0.3)	1.000 [§]	1 (0.6%)	0 (0)	0.448 [§]
Tertiary education or above	3 (8.12)	131 (34.9)	<0.001 [§]	52 (31.0)	79 (38.2)	0.145 [‡]
Immunoprophylaxis failure	0 (0)	7 (1.9)	1.000 [§]	5 (3.0)	2 (1.0)	0.250 [§]

[†] student t test

[‡] chi square test

[§] Fisher's exact test

Table 3. Predictors of medical care during and after pregnancy						
	Medical care of HBV during pregnancy			Medical care of HBV after pregnancy		
	No (n=356)	Yes (n=56)	p value	No (n=217)	Yes (n=195)	p value
	Mean (SD) or n (%)	Mean (SD) or n (%)		Mean (SD) or n (%)	Mean (SD) or n (%)	
Age (year)	32.8 (4.6)	33.0 (4.6)	0.755 †	32.5 (4.5)	33.2 (4.5)	0.106 †
BMI (kg/m ²)	22.0 (3.0)	22.2 (3.3)	0.723 †	22.1 (3.0)	22.0 (3.1)	0.598 †
Gravida	2.1 (1.2)	1.9 (0.9)	0.165 †	2.1 (1.3)	2.0 (1.0)	0.198 †
Parity	0.5 (0.7)	0.4 (0.5)	0.191 †	0.5 (0.7)	0.5 (0.7)	0.525 †
Maternal hepatitis B e antigen positive	89 (25.0)	16 (28.6)	0.569 ‡	53 (24.4)	52 (26.7)	0.602 ‡
Known HBV status before pregnancy	320 (89.9)	55 (98.2)	0.043 ‡	192 (88.5)	183 (93.9)	0.057 ‡
Medical checkup for HBV before pregnancy	158 (44.4)	49 (87.5)	<0.001 ‡	68 (31.3)	139 (71.3)	<0.001 ‡
Antiviral treatment before pregnancy	5 (1.4)	6 (10.7)	<0.001 ‡	0 (0)	11 (5.6)	<0.001 §
Smoker or ex-smoker	18 (5.1)	2 (3.6)	1.000 §	12 (5.5)	8 (4.1)	0.501 ‡
Drinker	3 (0.8)	1 (1.8)	0.444 §	4 (1.8)	0 (0)	0.125 §
Drug abuser	1 (0.3)	0 (0)	1.000 §	1 (0.5)	0 (0)	1.000 §
Tertiary education or above	111 (31.2)	23 (41.1)	0.142 ‡	60 (27.7)	74 (38.0)	0.026 ‡
Immunoprophylaxis failure	6 (1.7)	1 (1.8)	1.000 §	6 (2.8)	1 (0.5)	0.125 §

† student t test

‡ chi square test

§ Fisher's exact test

Table 4. Multivariate analysis of factors associated with awareness of hepatitis B before pregnancy and medical care attendance				
Outcome	Factors	Coefficient or Odds ratio (95% CI)	p value	R ²
Known hepatitis B carrier status before pregnancy				0.105
	Age	1.08 (1.00, 1.16)	0.068	
	Smoker or ex-smoker	0.441 (0.15, 1.34)	0.149	
	Tertiary education or above	5.31 (1.59, 17.88)	0.007	
Medical checkup before pregnancy				0.096
	Gravida	0.86 (0.68, 1.08)	0.186	
	parity	0.51 (0.34, 0.77)	0.001	
Medical care of hepatitis B during pregnancy				0.193
	Known hepatitis B carrier status before pregnancy	1.31 (0.15, 11.19)	0.808	
	Medical checkup for hepatitis B before pregnancy	7.73 (3.21, 18.65)	<0.001	
	Use of antiviral treatment before pregnancy	5.02 (1.41, 17.81)	0.013	
Medical care of hepatitis B after				0.233

pregnancy				
	Medical checkup for hepatitis B before pregnancy	5.05 (3.29, 7.51)	<0.001	
	Use of antiviral treatment before pregnancy	NA	0.999	
	Tertiary education or above	1.24 (0.79, 1.97)	0.353	