

BELIEFS AND PERCEPTIONS OF MIDWIVES ON PREVENTION OF MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HEPATITIS B IN SELECTED PRIMARY HEALTH FACILITIES IN GHANA

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Abstract

Background

Mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis B remains an important public health concern in Africa. Considering that Midwives are the frontline providers of maternal and newborn care in Ghana, this study sought to document their beliefs and attitudes toward prevention of mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis B.

Method

An exploratory descriptive qualitative design was employed. Fourteen (14) midwives were purposively sampled from selected health facilities in the La- Nkwantanang municipality. Individual face -to-face interview was conducted using a semi-structured interview guide.

Result

Participants had the perception and belief that Hepatitis B was very infectious and dangerous even though they still cared for pregnant women living with HBV. Further, exaggerating the wearing of protective clothing's, speaking harshly and prompting their colleagues about the status of client under their care was some of the behaviours they exhibited.

Conclusion

It is very imperative to provide special training to midwives in Ghana on PMTCT of viral Hepatitis B. Also, it is very important for midwives to be vaccinated against HBV since it will influence to advocate for birth dose vaccination of infants born to mother living with Hepatitis B.