VOLUNTARY TOXOPLASMOSIS SCREENING IN PREGNANCY UNDERESTIMATES ACTIVE INFECTION IN DEPENDENCY OF SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS: DATA FROM A POPULATION-BASED SURVEY OF NEONATES IN POMERANIA (SNIP)

Background and purpose 40% of all initial infections with Toxoplasma gondii during pregnancy develop into connal toxoplasmosis, which is associated with the risk of severe damage to the CNS, frequent premature deliveries, and stillbirths. In Germany, toxoplasmosis immunity screenings are not covered by the state health insurance as a general preventive care service, in contrast to screening for rubella immunity. Therefore, we analysed the impact of socioeconomic factors on the efficiency of private toxoplasmosis screening during pregnancy in a population-based study.

Material and methods Toxoplasmosis and rubella screening data were collected from 5403 mothers during the period from May 2002 to June 2008 within the population-based Survey of Neonates in Pomerania (SNIP).

Results At the first screening, 34.2% of expecting mothers were immune to toxoplasmosis, 75.2% had immunity against rubella after active immunisation. Negative immunity for toxoplasmosis was found in 39.7% and in 7.7% for rubella (missing information: toxoplasmosis: 25.8%; rubella 17.2%). Less than 10% of the women without immunity participated in a second toxoplasmosis screening. An active toxoplasmosis infection was found in 0.3% (n = 17) women during pregnancy. There were no infections with the rubella virus. Pregnant women with a higher socioeconomic status participated in screenings considerably more frequently.

Conclusion Our population-based sample demonstrated a substantial risk of toxoplasmosis infection during pregnancy in contrast to the rubella risk. Furthermore, lower socioeconomic status adversely affects the rate of toxoplasmosis screening. This data support the need for toxoplasmosis screening for pregnant women as a general health care benefit covered by insurance.

LESSONS FROM 10 YEARS OF INVASIVE FUNGAL INFECTION AT SINGAPORE GENERAL HOSPITAL NICU: EPIDEMIOLOGY, RISKS, CLINICAL COURSE AND OUTCOMES

Introduction Invasive fungal infections (IFI) in preterm neonates are rare, but associated with increased mortality and morbidity, both short and long term. IFIs in preterms are also increasing globally.

Aims To review the epidemiology, risk factors, clinical course and outcomes of all IFIs in newborns at Singapore General Hospital for the period 1/1/2002 to 31/7/2012.

Methods Retrospective matched case-control study. Cases of IFI were matched 1:1 with another neonate of the same gestation in the same year of birth.

Results 6 cases of IFI were matched with 6 controls. All were extremely low birth weight (ELBW) infants. Many IFI cases had risk factors for sepsis perinatally.

Significant risk factors associated with IFI include surgery (OR 25.000 95% CI 1.200–520.734), more than 35 days of conventional ventilation (OR 25.000 95% CI 1.200–520.734), 9 lots of platelet transfusion or more (OR 7.000 95% CI 1.140–42.969), vancomycin (OR 25.000 95% CI 1.200–520.734) and cephalosporin (OR 6.000 95% CI 1.003–35.908).

5 out of 6 IFI presented with thrombocytopenia with elevated C-reactive protein. Other presentations included hypotension (3 out of 6), increased ventilation settings (2 out of 6) and leucopenia (2 out of 6).

All IFI were Candida albicans. Multiorgan involvement is prevalent. All 6 IFIs had positive endotracheal as well as urine cultures. 3 had positive catheter tip cultures, 2 had positive peritoneal fluid cultures, and 1 had positive blood culture.

Conclusion Classical presentations and significant risk factors for IFI in ELBW were identified which allowed earlier identification and possible modification of risks.