The Global Incidence of Puerperal Sepsis Protocol for a Systematic Review

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Outline

- Background
- Objective
- Methods
Background

- Sepsis is among the leading causes of preventable maternal death not only in developing countries but in developed countries as well.
- It is usually reported as the third or fourth leading cause of maternal death.
Background

The predisposing factors or conditions leading to the development of sepsis are quite varied and include:

- Home birth in unhygienic conditions
- Low socioeconomic status
- Anaemia
- Primiparity
- Prolonged rupture of membranes
- Prolonged labour
- Multiple vaginal examinations
- Obstetrical manoeuvres
Background

- Sepsis is an important morbid condition because of its consequences on both fetal and maternal outcomes.
Background

Maternal complications include:
- Septicaemia,
- Endotoxic shock,
- Peritonitis or abscess formation leading to surgery
- Long term – future fertility

Fetal outcomes include
- A depressed five-minute Apgar score,
- Neonatal septicaemia and
- Pnuemonia
Background

Definition

- 'A temperature rise above 38.0°C maintained over 24 hours or recurring during the period from the end of the 1st to the end of the 10th day after childbirth or abortion'. (ICD-10)
- 'Oral temperature of 38.0°C or more on any two of the first ten days postpartum'. (USJCMW)
Background

- There is some overlap with the definition of endometritis in others – which includes foul smelling discharge, uterine tenderness
Incidence of puerperal sepsis shows wide variations among published literature – may be related to definition, recording etc
Background

- Sepsis is an important public health problem contributing to maternal morbidity and mortality.
- Most of the predisposing factors are preventable.
- The global magnitude of the problem is limited hence the need for a systematic review summarizing the true extent of puerperal sepsis.
Objective

To provide the incidence or prevalence data on puerperal sepsis worldwide
Methods

Types of Studies
- Any study design including cross-sectional, cohort, clinical trials, surveys having incidence or prevalence data on puerperal sepsis

Types of participants
- Women within 42 days of termination of pregnancy
Methods

Types of interventions
- None

Types of outcome measures
- Puerperal sepsis
Methods

Search strategy

- Data bases – Medline, EConlit, Biosis, EMBASE, Popline, Cinahl, Pias International, CAB, Sociofile, the gray literature database (SIGLE), Cochrane data bases
- Hand searching of journals
- Personal contacts

*Will review both published and unpublished data from 1997-2002*
Methods

Selection Criteria
- Study designs providing prevalence or incidence rates for any puerperal sepsis in any population

Exclusion Criteria
- Studies with no data
- Reports providing statements only but no source of data
- Reports referring to data collected before 1990
- Studies where no dates for data collection are provided
Methods

Methods of Review

- All studies identified will be assessed by titles and abstracts first
- Full text retrieval
- A data extraction form will be used to extract information such as design, population setting characteristics, follow-up, and completeness of data
- The review is expected to be completed by the end of the year.