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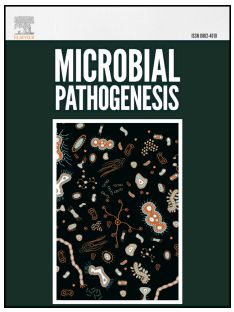

Cytomegalovirus infection in pregnant women and its association with bad obstetric outcomes in Northern India

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Background: Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection during pregnancy is far more complex than other infections, due to ability of the virus to be frequently reactivated during the child bearing age and may vertically transmitted to the developing fetus in spite of maternal immunity. Therefore, in the current study we determined the prevalence of CMV infection in pregnant women and tried to identify the role of maternal CMV infection in adverse pregnancy outcomes in Northern India. In this case-control study, 517 pregnant women, out of them 200 in case group and 317 in the control group. The overall 31.72 % (164/517) cases were found with active CMV infection. CMV positivity **(*p*=0.026)** was significantly associated with bad obstetric history (75/200, 37.50%) compared to normal pregnancy (89/317, 28.07%). CMV infection was predominantly observed in age group 21-25 years. CMV positivity have been found to be significantly higher in women from rural area as compare to those from urban area (*p*=**0.028**). However, no significant difference has been observed in case of occupation, income, and haemoglobin level.