

LECTURE: Transplacental Infection

[Editing File](#)

- Important
- Doctor's notes
- Extra explanation
- Only F or only M

وتقال هذه الجملة إذا "لا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله العلي العظيم"
داهم الإنسان أمر عظيم لا يستطيعه ، أو يصعب عليه القيام به

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this lecture, the students should be able to

- To recognize the different types of **infant infections**.
 - To know major **transplacentally transmitted pathogens** causing congenital infections .
(*Toxoplasma* , *TP* ,*ParvoV* , *VZV*, *Rubella V* & *CMV*.)
 - *To describe their **structures**.*
 - To know their major **epidemiology** features.
 - *To describe **clinical manifestations** of their congenital infections*
 - To illustrate different **laboratory diagnosis** of maternal and congenital infections.
 - To know their **treatment** and **preventive** measures.
-

- Infant infection

Classification	Timing of events	Mechanisms
Congenital DURING PREGNANCY	In utero	Transplacental
Perinatal	During labour and delivery	Exposure to genital secretions & blood
Neonatal	After birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct contact with the mother • breast feeding or nosocomial exposure

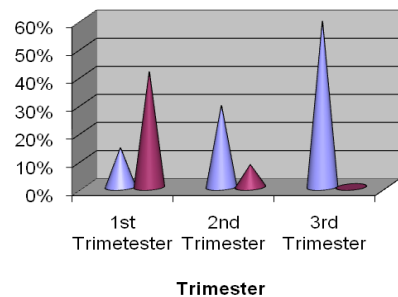
Introduction	
Etiology	<p>Mostly by viruses , previously known as (T O R C H) infections:</p> <p>T = Toxoplasmosis (Toxoplasma gondii) the main pathogen cause TPI. it is a protozoan parasite</p> <p>O = Others: Treponema pallidum (causes syphilis) , Parvovirus & Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV) .</p> <p>R = Rubella Virus</p> <p>C = C MV</p> <p>H=Herpes mainly type 2, Hepatitis & H IV</p> <p style="text-align: right;">TORC → transplacental H → perinatal</p>
Risk of Intrauterine infection & fetal damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of organism (Teratogenicity) • Type of maternal infection (primary) more damage to the fetus • Time during pregnancy (1 st “most severe” , 2nd, 3rd Trimesters) <p>Primary Maternal infection in the first half of pregnancy poses the greatest risk to the fetus*</p>

* because in recurrent infection , There is antibodies that get transferred to the fetus . That is why its less risky

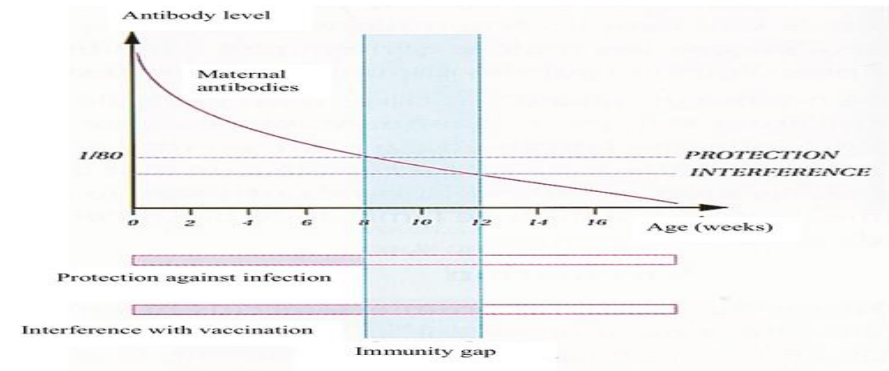
Cont. Introduction

Common Findings of congenital infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of congenital infections are “ asymptomatic ” at birth Babies with normal physical appearance may develop hearing loss or mental retardation Intrauterine growth retardation (IUGR) = small fetus " low birth weight" Hepatosplenomegaly (HSM) with jaundice Thrombocytopenia resulting in rash Microcephaly or hydrocephalus Risk of developing neurological or eyes abnormalities later in their life
Neonatal serological Dx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detection of specific IgM antibodies (BUT the Absence of fetal IgM at birth does not exclude infection) Persistence of specific Ig G antibody more than 12 months. Babies who are less than 12 ms old cannot develop IgM لان جهازهم المناعي مابعد اكتمل IgM= acute , IgG= chronic
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preventative and therapeutic measures are possible for some of the agents

Transplacental Toxoplasma and Congenital Infection



■ Transmission rate Highest in the 3rd trimester
■ rate severe symptoms infected infants Highst in 1st trimester



Toxoplasma Gondii

Morphology

- Obligate intracellular parasite (protozoa) that has three forms:
 - **Oocysts:** Shed in cat feces
 - **Tachyzoites:** (tachy = rapid) rapidly dividing forms , seen in body fluids (acute phase) .
 - **Bradyzoites:** (brady=slow) slowly dividing forms (chronic phase)

Transmission

- Ingestion of oocyst (through fecal oral route): fingers, soil, water contaminated with cat feces
- **Intermediate host** -> Ingestion of cyst (containing bradyzoites) in undercooked meat .
- Blood transfusion and organ transplant.
- Transplacental route (by tachyzoites)

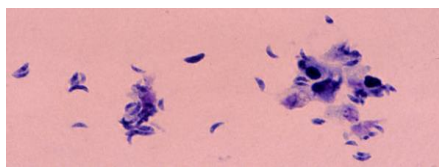
Oocysts;



Shed in cat feces

- Infective stage
- produced by sexual cycle in definitive host (cat)

Tachyzoites:



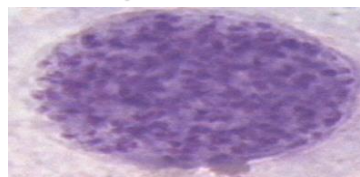
- rapidly dividing forms
- ACUTE PHASE

Immunity +



Immunity -

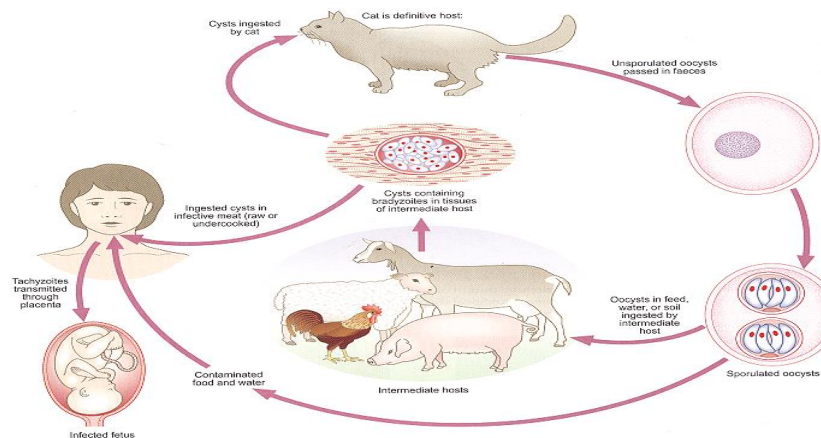
Bradyzoites:



- slowly dividing forms
- CHRONIC PHASE

وجود المناعة يبطئ نموه وعدم وجودها او ضعفها يسرع النمو

Life cycle



Toxoplasma Gondii

Manifestation

- Most cases of congenital toxoplasmosis are due to primary maternal infection .
- Rarely caused by reactivation of a latent infection (bradyzoites transform into tachyzoites in the immunocompromised patient e.g. pregnancy, HIV, cancer)
- The highest transmission rate is in the third trimester. The most severe symptoms are if transmission occurred during the first trimester. i.e. If the mother gets the infection in the third trimester, there is a high possibility that it will be transmitted to the fetus, but baby's symptoms are going to be the less severe "thanks god".
- Most (70-90%) are asymptomatic at birth but are still at high risk of developing abnormalities later, especially of the eye (chorioretinitis) and neurologic disease (Mental retardation) .
- **The classic triad of symptoms:**
Chorioretinitis, Hydrocephalus & Intracranial calcifications .
- Other signs include: rash, Hepatosplenomegaly, jaundice, lymphadenopathy, microcephaly, seizures, thrombocytopenia, deafness.
- Abortion & intrauterine death higher with infection in 1st trimester.

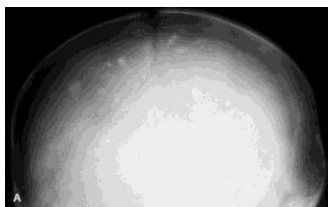
Chorioretinitis



Hydrocephalus



Intracranial calcifications



Diagnosis	Pregnant mother	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Serology: IgM, IgG, IgG avidity, and IgG seroconversion compared to booking blood • Low avidity = primary • High avidity = recurrent
	Infant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pre natal Dx : PCR (detection of the Toxoplasma genome from amniotic fluid) , Culture or Serial Ultrasound (to detect anomalies) ● Post natal Dx: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Serology by detecting IgM (again, negative results doesn't exclude infection) , or persistent IgG more than 12 months ○ PCR ○ Culture (isolation of Toxoplasma) ○ Evaluation of infant (ex, neuroimaging)
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid exposure to cat feces ; • Wash: hands with soap and water, wash fruits & vegetables, wash surfaces that touch fruits, vegetables & raw meat. • Cook all meats thoroughly . 	
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiramycin Used for mothers to lower transmission rate • Pyrimethamine combined with sulfadiazine. Used for neonates 	

Doctor notes:

* it's very Important to differentiate Between primary & Secondary infection "Recurrent"

- Because Risk of fetal damage is more with Primary

Serology

* - Mother Blood

↳ ⊕ Specific IgM
↳ ⊖ IgG

= primary

- Mother Blood

↳ ⊕ Specific IgM
↳ ⊕ IgG

= we can't differentiate

* → IgG avidity Test

↳ Low Avidity primary
↳ High Recurrent

- IgG seroconversion

" it was ⊖ then become ⊕ for IgG "
at the beginning of pregnancy



- once maternal infection is confirmed

① - Fetus should be monitored by Ultrasound to detect any sign of congenital anomaly

② → suspicion of congenital anomaly:

- pre-natal diagnosis can be made

- PCR → detect toxoplasma genome

- Culture

↳ Isolation of toxoplasma from Amniotic fluid

- After Birth:

↳ Serology

IgM → But negative result doesn't exclude diagnosis

- IgG = > 12 months

- PCR

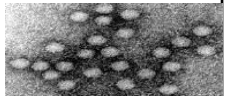
(isolation takes time)

- Infant → Evaluate "monitored" cuz majority = Asymptomatic at Birth

↳ ophthalmic "neuro imaging"
↳ neurological

Parvovirus B19 (parvo = small)

Morphology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family: Parvoviridae. parvo=small. (the smallest of the DNA viruses) Structure: nonenveloped , Icosahedral capsid & ssDNA genome. 	
Epidemiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worldwide distribution Humans are known hosts. the only reservoir, so it's not zoonotic like the Toxoplasma. Transmission: 1. Respiratory route 2. Transplacental route 3. Blood transfusion 	
Clinical presentation	Acquired infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immunocompetent host: Erythema infectiosum Maculopapular rash in cheeks Immunocompromised pts
	Congenital infection	<p>Risk of congenital infection is greatest when infection occur in 1st to 20 wks..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infection in the 1st trimester → IUD (Intrauterine death) 2-6 % Infection in the 2nd trimester → HF (Hydrops fetalis)* ̳ndary heart failure cause ascitis and massive edema Infection in the 3rd trimester → Lowest risk <p>* Parvovirus is known to cause fetal loss (hydrops fetalis) through: severe anaemia (due to the destruction of the RBCs by B19) → congestive heart failure (myocarditis) → generalized oedema & fetal death.</p>



non developed V.
Icosahedral capsid
& s.s DNA genome



Parvovirus B19

Diagnosis

Pregnant mother

- Specific Ig M , Ig G seroconversion.

Infant

- Ultrasound (to detect hydrops “edema”)
- Doesn't grow in cell culture.
- PCR should be performed to detect the viral DNA **definitive diagnosis**

Prevention

- Hygiene
- No vaccine available

Treatment

No specific treatment:

- Intrauterine blood transfusion provides blood to fetus when fetal RBCs are being destroyed.
- We can treat symptoms e.g. digoxin for CHF

Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV)

Morphology :

Family: Herpes viridae - **Structure:** dsDNA, Enveloped, Icosahedral Virus

Transmission:

Respiratory & Transplacental routes

Clinical presentation:

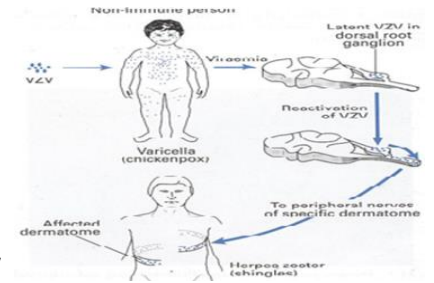
- **Acquired infection:**
 - 1- Varicella (chickenpox): (Primary illness) follows initial exposure to the virus with Generalized vesicular Rash.
 - Primary infection in a pregnant lady carries a greater risk of severe disease, in particular: pneumonia
 - 2- Zoster (shingle): (Recurrent infection) causing localised vesicular painful Rash.

- **Intrauterine infections:**

- Congenital infection: Congenital varicella syndrome (CVS) incidence is ~1- 2%
 - Occur when mother acquires the infection during 1st to 20 weeks of Pregnancy
 - **Characterised by: -Scarring of skin -Hypoplasia of limbs -CNS defects - eye defects**

- **Neonatal varicella:**

- Less than 5 days before delivery: the neonate is more likely to have severe infection.
- More than 5 days before delivery: the neonate is more likely to have mild disease **mother** Had time to produce AB that cross the placenta and protect from disease



Diagnosis:	Pregnant mother	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct Examination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Vesicular fluid (VF) for virus isolation ✓ Vesicular fluid (VF) for virus isolation → Immuno Fluorescent test (Ag) ✓ PCR to detect DNA-VZV • Serological test : IgM Ab. • Cell culture *takes time* Or virus antigen *more rapid* OR virus DNA on PCR *more rapid and sensitive*
	Infant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prenatal Dx: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ultrasound . ○ VZV DNA in fetal blood or amniotic fluid or placental villi. PCR ○ VZV IgM in fetal blood. • Postnatal Dx: after birth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VZV IgM ○ virus isolation skin lesion ○ VZV DNA in vesicular fluid or CSF (in case of CNS infection).
Prevention:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Pre exposure: varicella vaccine: live-attenuated vaccines . ❖ Post exposure : VZIG If the mother isnt immune , she should be given IgG • Susceptible pregnant women who have been exposed to VZV. • Infants whose mothers get infected by VZV < 5 to 2 days after delivery. 	
Treatment:	Acyclovir pregnant and neonate	

Rubella Virus

Morphology :

Family: Toga viridae - **Structure:** ss RNA, Icosahedral capsid, Enveloped Virus

Epidemiology & Pathogenesis:

- Humans
- **Transmission:** Respiratory route / transplacental route
- A world wide distribution, but now decreased due to vaccination.

Manifestations :

- **Acquired infection:** Maculopapular rash (Rubella=German measles) and fever
- **Congenital infection:** Risk of acquiring congenital rubella infection varies and depends on gestational age of the fetus at the time of maternal infection, Ranging from normal to congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) to intrauterine death (IUD).

gestational age	risk to fetus
0-12 wks	70%
13-16 wks	20%
>16 wks	Infrequent

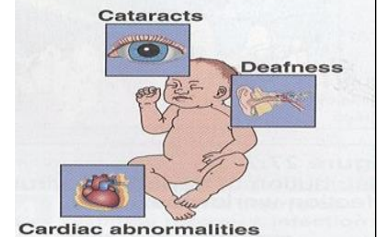
❖ Congenital Rubella Syndrome:

Triad of abnormalities Affecting & heart:

- **Ears :** Sensorineural hearing loss.
- **Eyes:** Cataracts, glaucoma.
- **Heart:** Cardiac malformations (patent ductus arteriosus)
- **Others:** Neurologic defects (Microcephalus) , growth retardation, bone disease, hepatosplenomegaly, thrombocytopenia (“blueberry muffin” lesions)



The classic triad of rubella symptoms in affected neonates is:

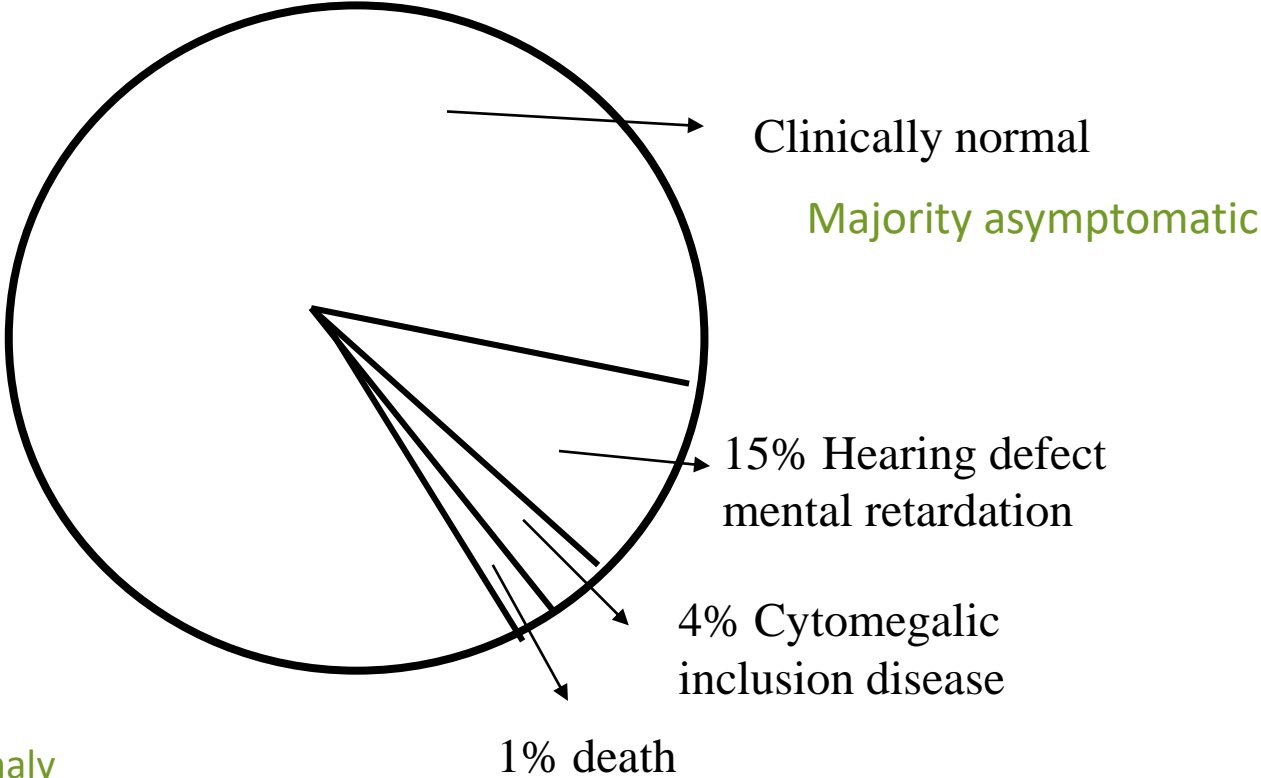


Diagnosis:	Pregnant mother	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serological diagnosis: Rubella specific IgM or IgG seroconversion
	Infant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Prenatal Dx: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ultrasound ○ Culture ○ PCR virus RNA ❖ Postnatal Dx: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Serology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IgM - Persistent IgG in the infant's serum beyond 9-12 ms of age ○ Culture ○ PCR
Prevention:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine antenatal screening: Rubella specific IgG . • vaccination : (LAV) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non immunized women should take the vaccine - women who got vaccine should avoid pregnancy for 3 months. 	

Congenital Infections:

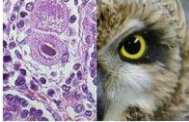


Blueberry muffin” spots

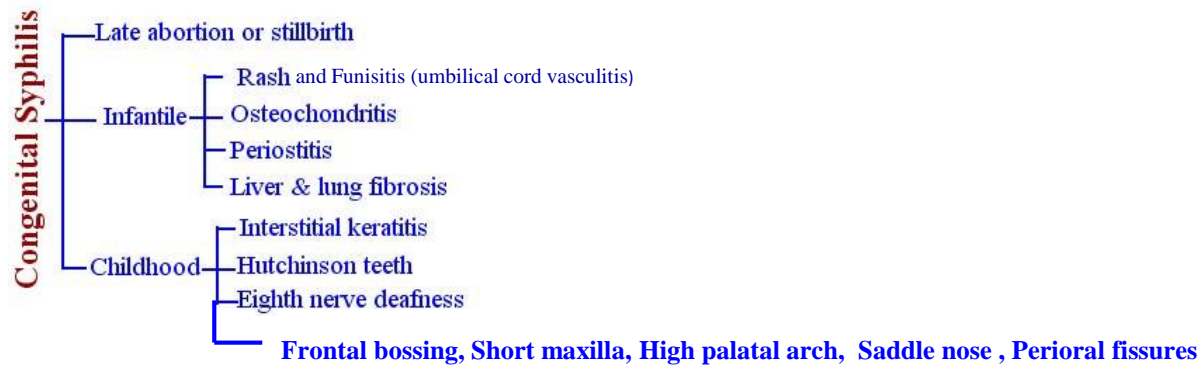


- Microcephaly
- Thrombocytopenia
- Hepato_spleenomagaly

Cytomegalovirus (CMV)

Diagnosis:	Pregnant mother	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maternal serology: CMV IgM, IgG, IgG avidity .
	Infant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Prenatal Dx: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PCR ○ culture ○ CMV specific IgM ○ Ultrasound ✓ Postnatal Dx: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Isolation of CMV or detection of its genome: in first 3 weeks of life From Body fluids: urine, saliva, blood. To differentiate congenital from perinatal - By using: Standard tube culture method, Shell vial assay or PCR ○ Histology: Detection of Cytomegalic intranuclear Inclusion Bodies in affected tissue (owl's eye)  ○ Serology: CMV IgM
Prevention:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education about CMV & how to prevent it through hygiene and handwashing • Vaccine is not available (TRIAL) 	
Treatment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptomatic infants: Ganciclovir. • Asymptomatic infants: not recommended. 	

Syphilis			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treponema pallidum (spirochete) • Transmitted via sexual contact • Mother with primary or secondary syphilis • Typically occurs during second half of pregnancy 		
Clinical features	Intrauterine death in 25% 3 major classifications		
Diagnosis	RPR/VDRL: non-treponemal test	MHA-TP/FTA-ABS: specific treponemal test	Confirmed if T. pallidum identified in skin lesions, placenta, umbilical cord, or at autopsy
Prevention	RPR/VDRL screen in ALL pregnant women early in pregnancy and at time of birth		
Treatment	Penicillin G		



herpes simplex	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• H=herpes simplex (HSV)• HSV1 or HSV2
Epidemiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primarily transmitted through infected maternal genital tract• Primary infection with greater transmission risk than reactivation• Rationale for C-section delivery prior to membrane rupture
Clinical presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most are asymptomatic at birth• 3 patterns of equal frequency with symptoms between birth and 4wks:Skin, eyes, mouth , CNS disease, Disseminated disease (present earliest)• Initial manifestations very nonspecific with skin lesions NOT necessarily present
Diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culture of maternal lesions if present at delivery• Cultures in infant• CSF PCR• Serologies is useless
Treatment	High dose of acyclovir

SUMMARY:

Special thanks to team 435

	Toxoplasma Gondii	Parvovirus B19	Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV)	Rubella Virus	Cytomegalovirus (CMV)
Morphology	intracellular parasite	Parvoviridae, non-enveloped, ssDNA.	Herpesviridae dsDNA, Enveloped,	Togaviridae ssRNA, Enveloped	Herpesviridae dsDNA, Enveloped
Route	Ingestion of cyst/oocyst, Blood	Respiratory Blood	Respiratory	Respiratory	Saliva, sexual, Blood, & Vertically
Congenital inf.	The classic triad of symptoms: Chorioretinitis, Hydrocephalus & Intracranial calcifications	Hydrops fetalis (anaemia, CHF, oedema & fetal death)	Scarring of skin Hypoplasia of limbs CNS & eye defects	Deafness, Cataracts, glaucoma, patent ductus arteriosus, CNS, "blueberry muffin" lesions	Ventriculomegaly, periventricular calcification, deafness, pneumonitis, myocarditis, "blueberry muffin"
Acquired inf.		Erythema infectiosum	Varicella (Chickenpox) Zoster (Shingle)	Maculopapular rash (German measles)	
Maternal investi.	IgM, IgG, IgG avidity, and IgG seroconversion	IgM, IgG seroconversion.	IgM, Culture (vesicular fluid), IF (Ag in cells), PCR	IgM, IgG seroconversion	IgM, IgG, IgG avidity
Prenatal	PCR, Culture or US	PCR, US	PCR, US, IgM (fetal blood)	PCR, Culture or US	PCR, culture, US, IgM,
Postnatal	IgM, IgG, PCR, Culture, Evaluation		IgM, Culture, PCR	IgM, IgG, PCR, Culture	PCR, culture, histo (owl's eye), IgM,
Treatment	Spiramycin Pyrimethamine + sulfadiazine.	Intrauterine blood transfusion	Acyclovir		Ganciclovir only if symptomatic
Prevention	Preventive measures	Preventive measures	Preexposure: live-attenuated vaccines Postexposure: Ig for pregnant, Infants	screening for IgG. vaccination : for Non immunised women + avoid pregnancy for 3 months.	Preventive measures

Quiz:

Q1) which of the following antiviral drug is recommended in treatment of varicella zoster virus ?

- A-oseltamivir
- B-Acyclovir
- C-zanamivir
- D-peramivir

Q2) Which of the following is the structure of rubella virus ?

- A-dsDNA, Enveloped, Icosahedral Virus
- B- ssDNA genome virus
- C- ss RNA, Icosahedral capsid, Enveloped Virus
- D- dsDNA , non enveloped virus

Q3) Chorioretinitis, Hydrocephalus & Intracranial calcifications is a classic triad symptoms for :

- A- toxoplasma gondii
- B- cmv
- C- hepres
- D- hiv

Ans:
1- b
2- c
3-a

THANK YOU FOR CHECKING OUR WORK, BEST OF LUCK!



Doctors slides



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