

# **Pelvic Inflammatory Disease & Ectopic Pregnancy**

## **CHA REPORT 2004**

### **Definition/Description:**

#### **Pelvic Inflammatory Disease**

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) is a serious sequelae of untreated gonorrheal and chlamydial infections in women (ref – DN provided ch.2.3). Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) is an upper genital tract inflammation caused by the spread of micro-organisms from the lower to the upper genital tract (Simms and Stephanson, Sex Transm Inf, 2000). PID is a key issue facing women's reproductive health.

Unfortunately, PID is a difficult disease to monitor as it is primarily reported in those women who wish to conceive. Even though there are difficulties in the surveillance of this disease, the impact of this problem on women's health remains an important disease that needs to be estimated in the population.

The reduction of PID has been strongly associated with a decrease in another serious maternal complication - ectopic pregnancy (EP) (Kamwendo et al, 2000). Ectopic pregnancy is the implantation of a fertilized egg outside the uterine corpus. World wide there have been increases over the past three decades.

#### **Association to STIs**

Evidence shows that epidemics of Gonorrhea and Chlamydia are often followed by secondary epidemics of PID and tertiary epidemics of ectopic pregnancy and tubal infertility.

Chlamydial infection causes a substantial proportion of PID cases and should be recognized as an important source of preventable reproductive morbidity in women (Simms and Stephanson, Sex Transm Inf, 2000).

Given the incidence of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea in the WHR, especially among target age and geographic based populations, the consequences of PID are expected and will ultimately affect our population in numerous ways.

#### **Impact on the System**

Primary care provides an important focus for the diagnosis and treatment of PID, however a system response is required across the continuum of care. In addition, population subgroups at increased risk of PID can be identified by targeting areas of high Chlamydia and Gonorrhea rates.

#### **Ectopic Pregnancy**

Ectopic pregnancy is a serious sequelae of untreated gonorrheal and chlamydia infections in women (ref – DN provided ch.2.3). Ectopic pregnancy is the implantation of a fertilized egg outside the uterine corpus. World wide there have been increases over the past three decades.

The reduction of ectopic pregnancy has been strongly associated with a decrease in another serious maternal complication – Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (Kamwendo et al, 2000).

#### **Association to Sexually Transmitted Infections**

Evidence shows that epidemics of Gonorrhea and Chlamydia are often followed by secondary epidemics of PID and tertiary epidemics of ectopic pregnancy and tubal infertility.

Given the incidence of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea in the WHR, especially among target age and geographic based populations, the consequences of PID and ectopic pregnancy are expected and will ultimately affect our population in numerous ways.

**Impact on the System**

Primary care provides an important focus for the diagnosis and treatment of ectopic pregnancy, however a system response is required across the continuum of care. In addition, population subgroups at increased risk of ectopic pregnancy can be identified by targeting areas of high Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea rates.

**Findings:**

*Pending*