periCOVID Africa – RIA2020EF-2926

Understanding COVID-19 infections in pregnant women and their babies in Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, The Gambia and Mozambique

EDCTP COVID-19 Webinar
Zoom, 18-19 Mar 2021

Professor Kirsty Le Doare | MRC/UVRI@LSHTM Uganda Research Unit and St. George’s, University of London
Principal investigator – on behalf of the periCOVID consortium
Primary objectives
• To describe the sero-epidemiology of COVID-19 among pregnant women
• To determine risk and routes of mother-to-child transmission

Secondary objectives
• To determine the clinical course and pregnancy outcomes in women infected with SARS-CoV-2 during pregnancy
• To determine the presence of SARS-CoV-2 in various mother and baby samples and estimate the duration of viral excretion
• To assess the immune responses to SARS-CoV-2 in pregnant women and their babies
• To work with communities to understand perceptions surrounding infection prevention and control techniques to reduce the spread of COVID-19 amongst the pregnant population
Study design

Uganda – in collaboration with Makerere University, MRC/UVRI, St. George’s University of London and University of Bergen, Norway

Kenya – in collaboration with The Aga Khan University, Pakistan and King’s College, London

Mozambique – in collaboration with Universidade Eduardo Mondlane and Manhica Health Research Centre, Manhica and King’s College, London

Malawi – in collaboration with the Malawi-Liverpool Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme

The Gambia – in collaboration with King’s College, London
Focus on special populations

knowledge gaps in risk, transmission and immunity in pregnant women and their infants

**periCOVID Africa WP2**

- Designed to align with WHO Unity Protocol and PREPARE//PRECISE/BAMBII
- Uses validated assays for total and specific IgG/IgM against Spike and Nuclear capsid

**periCOVID Africa WP3**

- patient and public involvement, communications, capacity strengthening and stakeholder engagement
- Designing patient facing documents and providing training for researchers to align with community values
Preliminary findings

Very little COVID19 in any cohort

- Fear, mistrust and stigma around testing at many sites
- Many staff have had COVID19, leading to staffing issues
- Good immune responses crossing the placenta
Publications and other communications

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Pregnant Women and Their Newborns

Inclusion of pregnant women in COVID-19 vaccine development

Research Paper

SARS-CoV-2 infection in pregnancy: A systematic review and meta-analysis of clinical features and pregnancy outcomes

Asma Khalili, Erkan Kalafat, Can Benlioglu, Pat O'Brien, Edward Morris, Tim Draycott, Shakila Thangaratnam, Kirsty Le Doare, Paul Heath, Shamez Ladhani, Peter von Dadelszen, Laura A. Magee


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