TITLE: Antibiotic Prophylaxis for Women During Cesarean Section: Safety and Guidelines

DATE: 13 February 2009

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What is the evidence for safety to the baby of administration of prophylactic antibiotics to a woman during cesarean section?

2. What are the guidelines for prophylactic antibiotic administration for women undergoing cesarean section (i.e., antibiotic selection)?

METHODS:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 1, 2009), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international health technology agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include articles published between 2004 and February 2009, and are limited to English language publications only. For the first question, filters were applied to limit the retrieval to systematic reviews, health technology assessments, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, controlled clinical trials, and safety data. For the second question, filters were applied to limit the retrieval to guidelines. Internet links are provided, where available.

RESULTS:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials (RCTs), controlled clinical trials, and evidence-based guidelines.

The literature search identified one meta-analysis and three RCTs that provide evidence on safety to the baby with administration of prophylactic antibiotics to a woman during cesarean section. Two guidelines on the prophylactic antibiotic administration for women undergoing cesarean section were identified. No health technology assessments, systematic reviews, or
controlled clinical trials were identified. Additional articles of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

Health technology assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses

Randomized controlled trials


Controlled clinical trials
No literature identified.

Guidelines and recommendations


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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Randomized controlled trials


Review articles


Additional references