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Status of vaccination against seasonal influenza in pregnant Japanese women: Effect on infection rate among primiparous and multiparous women

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Although, there were no mortalities from the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 among pregnant Japanese women, pregnant women with flu are at higher risk of hospitalization and mortality compared to general population. During the pandemic (H1N1) 2009, it is estimated that more than 60% of pregnant Japanese women were vaccinated against the novel virus. However, as we had no data regarding vaccination coverage rate for seasonal flu in pregnant Japanese women, we conducted a multi-center study to determine vaccination coverage against 2013–2014 seasonal flu and the prevalence rate of flu infection among pregnant Japanese women. In that study, 51% of participants reported having received vaccination in or after October 2013. The women aged <25 years had a lower vaccination rate than those aged ≥25 years ($P=0.0000$). Interestingly, although experience of prior birth did not affect vaccination coverage rate, multiparous women had a higher rate of contracting influenza than primiparous women irrespective of vaccination status ($P=0.0216$ and $P=0.0003$ for women with and without vaccination, respectively). These results raised a question why multiparous pregnant women are more susceptible to flu than primiparous pregnant women. We conducted a study to address this issue during 2014-2015 flu season and results of this study will be presented.

Biography

Takahiro Yamada graduated from Hokkaido University School of Medicine, Japan. He has completed his PhD from the same university and Post-doctoral studies from Nagasaki University School of Medicine, Japan and The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada. Currently, he is the Lecturer of Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine and is the Chief Obstetrician of Obstetrics Clinic of Hokkaido University Hospital. He has published more than 90 papers in reputed journals.

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