SHOULD YOU TRUST A DIPSTICK?

Rapid Tests as Screening for Asymptomatic Bacteriuria in Pregnant Women in Lima, Peru

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Purpose:
To determine if there is a need for an improved rapid urine test in Lima, Peru.

Methods:
Identify the current prevalence of asymptomatic bacteriuria in Lima.
Identify current procedures for antenatal screening of asymptomatic bacteriuria in Lima.
Perform a cost analysis of the screening procedures currently in use.
Identify the accuracy/reliability of screening procedures currently in use.
Determine if a need exists for an improved rapid screening test.

Background:
Asymptomatic bacteriuria in pregnant women has been associated with:
1. Preeclampsia
2. Preterm birth
3. Low birth weight
4. Pyelonephritis

In Peru, the prevalence of asymptomatic bacteriuria during pregnancy can be as high as 21.2%.

Antibiotic treatment of asymptomatic bacteriuria reduces the risks of preeclampsia, preterm birth, low birth weight, and pyelonephritis.

An accurate screening test is needed.

Conclusions:
The current gold standard procedure for screening is a urine culture. The cost is $4.81 per culture.

Most women receive a dipstick test as screening for asymptomatic bacteriuria. The cost is $0.21 per test.

Dipsticks can have a sensitivity as low as 2.8%, which leads to a very high number of false negative results.

Dipsticks are not a viable alternative to urine culture as a screening test for asymptomatic bacteriuria in pregnant women.

There is a need for an improved rapid screening test for asymptomatic bacteriuria in pregnant women in Lima.

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