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Submission date: 11-May-2023 11:47AM (UTC+0700)

Submission ID: 2090126766

File name: Deferences_ampicilin.pdf (432.12K)

Word count: 2993

Character count: 16064



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Keywords:

Ampicillin
Cefazolin
hs-CRP level
Premature rupture of membranes

ABSTRACT

Background: Premature rupture of membranes (PROM) is a rupture of amniotic sac before delivery. PROM is associated with an increased incidence of preterm labor and infection. The use of prophylactic antibiotic may reduce the risks of infection. High-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) is an acute-phase reactant protein that is associated with PROM. How much effect of prophylactic antibiotic to hs-CRP level remains unclear.

Objective: To compare the reduction in hs-CRP levels in premature rupture of membranes before and after given ampicillin or cefazolin.

Methods: The design of this study was true experimental design (pre and post-test) conducted at Dr. Kariadi General Hospital Medical Center Semarang and Kartini General Hospital Jepara from September 2019 to January 2020. Study samples are pregnant women with premature rupture of membranes that came to the Emergency Department and Maternity Ward Dr. Kariadi General Hospital Medical Center Semarang and Kartini General Hospital Jepara. Samples were divided into two groups, a group treated with ampicillin and the other with cefazolin therapy. All samples were subjected to a hs-CRP examination. Statistical analysis was performed Mann-Whitney and Wilcoxon.

Results: There are no significant differences in the age variable (28.8 ± 6.54 vs 29.1 ± 5.93), gestational age (36.3 ± 2.55 vs 36.3 ± 2.90), and parity (2.2 ± 0.99 vs 2.47 ± 1.19) in the ampicillin and cefazolin groups ($p > 0.05$). In this study, 37.1% patients have a history of PROM while 62.9% had no history of PROM. Reduction in hs-CRP levels after administration of ampicillin and cefazolin was significant (4.4 ± 2.65 mg/L vs 6.3 ± 4.43 mg/L, respectively, $p = 0.03$). The difference in the decrease in hs-CRP levels before and after given ampicillin and cefazolin was significant ($p = 0.0001$).

Conclusion: There is a decrease in hs-CRP levels after the administration of ampicillin or cefazolin in PROM, whereas cefazolin induced higher reduction in hs-CRP levels. Ampicillin can still be used as a first-line prophylactic antibiotic in primary healthcare facilities.

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Article history:

Received 07-07-2020
Accepted 08-12-2020
Available online 10-03-2021

DIMJ, 2021, 2(1), 1-5 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.14710/dimj.v2i1.8428>

1. Introduction

Premature rupture of membranes (PROM) is defined as the rupture of the membranes before delivery. PROM can occur at or after 37 weeks' gestation or before 37 weeks' gestation (PPROM or preterm premature rupture of membranes).¹ Under normal circumstances, 8-10% of women in a term pregnancy will experience PROM.²

At present, the problem of PROM requires more attention because of its high prevalence, and

the incidence of infection tends to increase. The prevalence of term PROM occurs in approximately 6.46-15.6% of term pregnancies, and PPRM occurs in about 2-3% of all single pregnancies and 7.4% of twin pregnancies. PROM incidence in Indonesia ranges from 4.5-6%. Several studies found that patients experienced chorioamnionitis when hs-CRP levels were examined for the highest levels. Besides, there is a high level of maternal serum CRP ($>20,000$ $\mu\text{g/l}$) in patients with premature rupture of membranes when admitted to

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the hospital as an early marker that indicates funicitis with good diagnostic performance.⁶

Antibiotic therapy is recommended by many case studies of premature rupture of membranes since PROM can increase neonatal complications.⁷⁻¹¹ A research shows that the use of antibiotics for PPRM can prevent 4% of neonatal deaths. Some commonly used antibiotics are erythromycin or amoxicillin/clavulanic acid or cefazolin.⁷ Ampicillin with or without erythromycin is recommended for PPRM.¹²

In PNPK (National Guidelines for Medical Services), it is suggested that ampicillin can still be used as a prophylactic antibiotic in premature rupture of membranes, while in Dr. Kariadi General Hospital Medical Center, they use cefazolin as prophylaxis. On the other hand, the use of ampicillin is more efficient than cefazolin. Ampicillin is more readily available in primary health facilities and cheaper. Therefore, the authors intend to research on the administration of ampicillin compared to cefazolin to reduce hs-CRP levels in PROM.

2. Method

The design of this study was a true experimental design study (pre and post-test design), conducted at Dr. Kariadi General Hospital Medical Center in Semarang and Kartini General Hospital in Jepara from September 2019 until February 2020. The study samples were pregnant women with premature rupture of membranes in the Emergency Department and Maternal Ward of Dr. Kariadi Hospital Semarang and Kartini Hospital Jepara, which met the inclusion criteria (primigravida and multigravida with gestational age ≥ 20 weeks, and a single fetus living intrauterine). Patients with a history of cardiovascular abnormalities, history of chronic hypertension, diabetes mellitus, kidney disease, chronic and systemic infections, smoking habits, drinking alcoholic beverages, use of drugs containing estrogen and progesterone during pregnancy, obesity, intrauterine fetal death, and antepartum haemorrhage were excluded from the study.

Samples were selected using a randomization block. Data from all samples were obtained through history taking, physical examination, and laboratory examination as indicated and divided into two groups: group I who was given ampicillin therapy with a dose of 2 grams intravenously and group II who was given cefazolin therapy with a dose of 2 grams intravenously. The patients' venous blood sample was obtained through a 5 cc medial cubital vein. Serum hs-CRP levels were measured with the Latex Turbidimetry Immunoassay (LTIA) method

before and 6 hours after administration of ampicillin or cefazolin in both groups.

Statistical analysis was performed using the Shapiro-Wilk test to assess the distribution of primary data, the analysis of hs-CRP levels using the Mann-Whitney test. Wilcoxon test was used in differences in the decrease of hs-CRP levels before and after administration.

3. Results

This study was conducted from September 2019 to January 2020. Seventy (70) subjects were recruited, consisting of 35 subjects in each group of ampicillin and cefazolin. As shown in Table 1, there is no significant difference in the age variable (28.8 ± 6.54 vs 29.1 ± 5.93), gestational age (36.3 ± 2.55 vs 36.3 ± 2.90), and parity (2.2 ± 0.99 vs 2.47 ± 1.19) in the ampicillin and cefazolin groups ($p > 0.05$). In this study, 37.1% patients have a history of PROM while those with no history of PROM are 62.9%.

Table 1. Subject Characteristics

Characteristics	Antibiotic Type		P
	Ampicillin (n = 35)	Cefazolin (n = 35)	
Age (years)	$28,8 \pm 6,54$; 30,0 (17-41)	$29,1 \pm 5,93$; 30,0 (17-39)	0,849
Gestational age (weeks)	$36,3 \pm 2,55$; 37,0 (29-40)	$36,3 \pm 2,90$; 37,0 (29-40)	0,877
Parity	$2,2 \pm 0,99$; 2,0 (1-5)	$2,47 \pm 1,19$; 2,0 (1-5)	0,695
PROM History			
Yes	13 (37,1 %)	13(37,1%)	1,000
No	22 (62,9 %)	22(62,9%)	

* Age data is normally distributed ($p > 0.05$)

* Gestational age and parity data are not normally distributed ($p < 0.05$)

Table 2 shows that there are significant differences in hs-CRP levels before giving ampicillin and cefazolin ($p = 0.005$). Differences in the reduction in hs-CRP levels before and after administration of ampicillin using Wilcoxon test showed significant results ($p = 0.0035$), and differences in the decrease of hs-CRP levels before and after cefazolin also showed significant results ($p = 0.0001$). Also, no significant difference was found in the difference in levels of hs-CRP when given ampicillin compared to cefazolin ($p = 0.054$) using Mann-Whitney test.

Table 2. Analysis of hs-CRP levels

hs-CRP Levels	Antibiotic Type		p
	Ampicillin (n = 35)	Cefazolin (n=35)	
Pre	6,5 ± 3,57; 5,6 (1,9-17,8)	10,5±6,53 ;7,3 (2,0-31,8)	0,005
Post	4,4 ± 2,65; 3,5 (1,1-11,2)	6,3 ± 4,43; 4,8 (1,6-20,8)	0,033
p	0,0001	0,0001	
Δhs-CRP	2,1±1,45; 1,9 (0,3-6,6)	4,2±3,85; 3,2 (0,1-13,5)	0,054

* Data is not normally distributed (p <0.05)

4. Discussion

Premature rupture of membranes (PROM) is the rupture of the membranes before labor. PROM can occur at or after 37 weeks' gestation (PROM or premature rupture of membranes), before 37 weeks' gestation (PPROM) or preterm rupture of membranes).¹

The cause of PROM remains uncertain. History of PROM in a previous pregnancy, genital tract infection, antepartum haemorrhage, and smoking have a very close relationship with the incidence of PROM.¹³ In this study, a history of PROM was observed in 37.1% of the samples. This ²⁰ is similar with other studies which stated that previous history of PROM is a risk factor for the occurrence of PROM by 33.8%.¹⁴ History of PROM which is a risk factor for the incidence of PROM may be due to genital infection and urinary tract that is not treated/asymptomatic, short cervical length, as well as presence of other obstetric problems underlying the PROM.¹⁴

The levels of hs-CRP will increase with the presence of infections, and the inflammation induced by IL-6 as a result of the antigen-antibody mechanism.¹⁵ Previous research stated that an increase in serum hs-CRP levels in pregnant women affects the occurrence of low birth weight in infants,²⁹ intrauterine infection, and causes prematurity.¹⁶ The occurrence of premature rupture of membranes is mostly related to the presence of infection. Previous studies found that hs-CRP concentrations >20 mg/l correlated with the occurrence of chorioamnionitis in women with PROM.¹⁷ In this study, the mean hs-CRP level in premature rupture of membranes before ampicillin was 6.5 mg/L and cefazolin 10, 5 mg/L, and no clinical chorioamnionitis was found.

Currently, the problem of PROM requires closer attention because it correlates significantly with the increasing incidence of infection. Chorioamnionitis is a complication of 30-40% of cases of pregnancy with PROM that can cause sepsis in the mother.

However, complications from PROM are not uncommon if treated promptly with appropriate interventions, by administering prophylactic antibiotics among others. Prophylactic antibiotics aim is to reduce the frequency of maternal and fetal infections and thereby delay the onset of preterm labor by extending the latent period.^{2,4}

Indonesia's recommendations regarding antibiotic therapy for pregnant patients with PROM have been listed in the National Guidelines for Medical Services (PNPK). It is recommended to administer penicillin (Ampicillin) or macrolide (Erythromycin) antibiotics in parenteral and/or oral form. However, it is still unknown whether the routine use of antibiotic treatment for PROM in term or near term pregnancies is ²⁷ful.^{1,18} The available research data are lacking to determine the best antibiotic regimen (the type of antibiotic, dose, and duration) to be given in the case of PROM. Nevertheless, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ACOG) recommends prophylactic antibiotic²⁴ to extend the length of the latent period in PROM with a gestational age of less than 34 weeks.¹⁹ Research conducted in Turkey stated that the use of a 1-gram intravenous dose of cefazolin for PROM prophylaxis could reduce hs-CRP levels.²⁰ In this study, the administration of ampicillin and cefazolin can reduce levels of hs-CRP (p<0.05). During this study, samples did not suffer from any allergies or other complications from the administered prophylactic antibiotics. Ampicillin may still be recommended in premature rupture of membranes, although cefazolin administration can further reduce hs-CRP levels.

The study has some limitations. Other risk factors were not assessed for the incidence of PROM in terms of BMI, the effect of genital infection, cervical length, and previous history of polyhydramnions. The PROM onset was not controlled which might affect hs-CRP levels before administration of antibiotics.

5. Conclusion

The level of hs-CRP decreases after the administration of ampicillin or cefazolin in PROM, where cefazolin induced higher reduction in hs-CRP levels compared to ampicillin. Ampicillin can still be used as a first-line prophylactic antibiotic in primary healthcare facilities.

Ethical Approval

Ethics approval was granted by Ethics²⁴ Committee of Research and Development (KEPK) of Dr. Kariadi General Hospital Medical Centre

Semarang with number No.345/EC/KEPK-RSDK/2019. All participants have signed a consent form informing them about the study, confidentiality, anonymity, and right to withdraw at any time during the study.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests. that may be perceived as inappropriately influencing the representation or interpretation of reported research results.

Funding

This study was self-funded by the corresponding author. Therefore, there isn't any conflict of interest presented in this study.

Author Contributions

All of the authors developed the plan and design of the study together. Conceptualization, AB, STH, EA, JD, PSW, BAP; methodology, AB, BAP; software, validation, formal analysis, investigation, resources, AB, STH, EA, JD, PSW, BAP; writing—original draft preparation, AB; writing—review and editing, AB, STH, EA, JD, PSW, BAP; visualization, AB; supervision, STH, EA, JD, PSW, BAP; project administration, AB; funding acquisition AB, STH, EA, JD, PSW, BAP.

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to all patients who came from Dr. Kariadi General Hospital Medical Center Semarang and Kartini General Hospital Jepara.

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