

# Microbiological Surveillance in Antenatal Care to Prevent Preterm Labor

**Santosh Saini, M.D.,  
Nidhi Goel, M.D.,  
Antariksh Deep, M.D.,  
Madhu Sharma, M.D.,  
Parkash S. Gill, M.D.,  
Kiran Bala, M.D.**

## **ABSTRACT**

An intrauterine infection is a major cause of preterm labor with or without intact membranes. A present study was undertaken to evaluate if there were any association between genital tract infections in pregnant women, premature rupture of the membranes, and adverse fetal outcome. A total of 100 women were enrolled in the study. The test group, group A, comprised of 50 women hospitalized at the labor room with spontaneous preterm labor (less than 37 weeks of pregnancy). The control group, group B, comprised of 50 normal full-term pregnant women who came in labor. High vaginal swabs from all women were cultured for bacteria and fungi. Bacterial cultures were positive in 35 women (70%) of group A and 12 women (24%) of group B. Neonatal morbidity including respiratory distress syndrome (8%), hyper-bilirubinemia (8%), and septicaemia (6%), as well as mortality (14%) were more common in group A, compared to group B. (*J Infect Dis Antimicrob Agents* 2008;25:19-24.)