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Toxoplasmosis: The congenital infections impact in Brazil

Congenital toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage and neurological and/or eye damage to the fetus. Since Austria and France established prenatal screening, the prevalence of toxoplasmosis has declined from 50% to 35% and 84% to 44%, respectively. Other countries such as the United Kingdom, have educational practices to reduce the risk of infection in seronegative pregnant women. Prenatal screening in Brazil is carried out in the states of Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Sao Paulo and Goias; and the cities of Curitiba (state of Paraná) and Porto Alegre (state of Rio Grande do Sul). This program is based on serological screening, advising on prevention measures and serological monitoring in pregnant women that are initially seronegative, in addition to the monitoring of pregnant women and children with acute infection and case notification. In the first four years of implementation, the program evaluation showed a 63% reduction in the number of pregnant women and 42% in the number of children referred to reference services. As for medications, there was a 62% reduction in consumption of folic acid and 67% of sulfadiazine. The definitions of protocols resulted in the standardization of care and safety for the decision-making by physicians. As there are several protocols individualized in various departments and regions, the establishment of an idea, consensual conduct with technical support, will result in implementing measures that will save public resources, with the decrease of congenital toxoplasmosis.

Biography

Fernando Javier Salgado Morales completed his Doctor in Medicine at Central University of Ecuador and Medical Residence in Obstetrics and Gynecology in SUS's, Ipiranga Hospital, Sao Paulo. He is currently working as a Gynecologist-obstetrics, ultrasound performer and fetal medicine specialist.

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