

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Genital Herpes Simplex virus (GHV) was investigated in the cervico vaginal discharge of 96 pregnant women, who attended the antenatal care clinic of Benha university hospital during the period from June to July 1988. All women were in the third trimester. The methods of laboratory investigations for GHV included tissue culture and enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (Elisa). The incidence of GHV by tissue culture was 18.8%. The mean age of the infected group was 23.6 years, the mean gravidity was 3.4 and the mean parity was 1.7. The incidence of history of abortion was significantly higher in the infected group ( $P < 0.05$ ). There were no significant difference between the incidence of premature labour or neonatal deaths in both groups. History of oral herpes was of no value regarding genital herpes infection. The infected group has a significantly higher incidence of discharge and pruritis-possibly also, due to associated monilial infection ( $P < 0.01$ ). Recurrent urinary symptoms and genital neuritic pain were an outstanding complaints by most women in the infected group ( $P < 0.01$ ).

Elisa as a rapid diagnostic test for GHV shows a highly significant positive correlation with tissue culture results ( $P>0.01$ ). Its sensitivity was somewhat low (44.4%) while it had a good specificity (84.6%) compared to tissue culture.

**Conclusion:**

GHV is a widely distributed disease, although it has no specific pathology in most cases. The typical herpetic lesion described in all teaching books is a very rare lesion which may not be detected by most gynecologists for years. GHV may be an important etiological factor in patients complaining of habitual abortion, recurrent and persistent vaginal discharge especially when monilial infection is also present. Cases with lower urinary tract symptoms and neuritic pain in the genital area should be investigated for GHV.