

FEATURES OF BIRTH CANAL MICROFLORA IN PREMATURE BIRTH

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Objective: To examine the characteristics of the birth canal microflora in women who have undergone premature and full-term childbirth, with the aim of identifying possible differences in the microbiological background affecting the course of the postpartum period.

Materials and methods: A bacteriological examination of vaginal contents was conducted on 53 women on the first day of the postpartum period who gave birth vaginally at Andijan City Clinical Maternity Hospital No. 2.

The subjects were divided into two groups: Group I - 14 women after premature birth; Group II - 39 women after full-term birth.

The isolated microorganisms were identified based on standard bacteriological methods. Statistical processing of the data was carried out using Fisher-Student variation analysis, determination of proportions (p, %) and standard error of proportions (Sp, %). The significance of differences was assessed using the χ^2 method.

Results and discussion: The study of vaginal microflora revealed microorganisms from the families Micrococcaceae, Streptococcaceae, Enterobacteriaceae (*E. coli*) and fungi of the genus *Candida* (*C. albicans*). Micrococcaceae: detected in $35.71 \pm 12.80\%$ of women in group I and $48.72 \pm 8.0\%$ in group II. Streptococcaceae: $14.29 \pm 9.35\%$ (Group I) versus $25.64 \pm 6.99\%$ (Group II). *E. coli*: was more frequently detected in women with full-term labor - $17.95 \pm 6.15\%$, than in those with premature labor - $7.14 \pm 6.88\%$. *Candida albicans*: conversely, prevailed in premature labor - $21.43 \pm 10.97\%$ versus $5.13 \pm 3.53\%$ in full-term labor.

Aerobic microflora was not detected in $35.71 \pm 12.80\%$ (group I) and $23.08 \pm 6.75\%$ (group II) of cases. Despite the absence of statistically significant differences in the frequency of microorganism isolation between the groups, a tendency was observed for more frequent detection of *Candida albicans* in premature labor and *E. coli* in full-term labor.

Conclusion. The microflora of the birth canal in women who have experienced premature birth is characterized by a higher frequency of *Candida albicans*, while in full-term childbirth, *E. coli* is more commonly detected. This may indicate differences in the pathogenesis of infectious complications

during the postpartum period depending on the timing of delivery. The obtained data underscore the need for early diagnosis and correction of vaginal microflora in pregnant women to prevent complications in premature labor.