

## ABSTRACT

The prevalence of protozoan parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* among pregnant women visiting public and private sector clinics in Lahore was determined through serological screening and various risk factors of toxoplasmosis were determined by interviewing the subject through a specially designed questionnaire. Blood samples of total 100 pregnant ladies were collected from different clinics and then processed in the lab to separate sera from them. The sera were tested for the presence of IgG and IgM antibodies against *Toxoplasma* using ELISA technique. The association between seropositivity for *Toxoplasma* IgG or IgM and different risk factors was determined through statistical analysis.

The overall prevalence among 100 pregnant women was found to be 34% which is significantly high. 31% women had reactive antibodies for *Toxoplasma* IgG and 5% had reactive antibodies for *Toxoplasma* IgM, while 2% had antibodies reactive for both *Toxo* IgG and IgM. The education level, social status, occupation, drinking unpasteurized milk, pregnancy trimester and low hemoglobin level ( $p$ -value  $< 0.05$ ) were found to be important risk factors for acquiring toxoplasmosis. Personal hygiene level, number of previous pregnancies, age, eating meat and history of abortions and still births had slight association with prevalence of *T. gondii* when percentage prevalence was determined among different groups. On the other hand contact with pets or cattle, eating undercooked meat products and salads and drinking untreated water were not significantly associated with presence of antibodies against *Toxoplasma*.