

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA PULAU PINANG



**PREVALENCE OF VULVOVAGINAL
CANDIDIASIS AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN
FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2015 IN
HOSPITAL PUTRAJAYA**

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ABSTRACT

Vulvovaginal candidiasis is a common infection among pregnant women, usually caused by yeast infections of *Candida albican*. The aim of the present study was to determine the prevalence of vulvovaginal candidiasis of pregnant women from January to March 2015 in Hospital Putrajaya. Data were obtained from 1067 pregnant women. Of 1067 patients, 243 of patients are positive of yeast infection of *Candida albican*. March was shown the highest number of pregnant women affected with vulvovaginal candidiasis with 65 patients. This followed by February with 86 patients. The lowest number of pregnant women affected with vulvovaginal candidiasis that are in January with 92 patients. The percentage of pregnant women affected with vulvovaginal candidiasis from January to March in Hospital Putrajaya was increased gradually every each month. This could be explained due to the increasing level estrogen in pregnant women. Increasing of level estrogen will lead to increasing of glycogen production in vagina. As the result, the yeast will grow faster and stick more easily on the vagina walls. The results of the study could also be used to create awareness to the female gender especially pregnant women on the importance of good dietary and to maintain good personal hygiene to curtail the prevalence of vulvovaginal candidiasis among them.

Keywords: vulvovaginal candidiasis, *Candida albican*, pregnant women

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

According to Melissa Conrad (2015), vulvovaginal candidiasis (VVC) is a vaginal yeast infection involving a type of fungus, or yeast. *Candida* can be found all over the body and are normally present in warm and moist areas of the body. *Candida* species are part of the lower genital tract flora in 20 – 50% of healthy asymptomatic women (Deepa V Kanagal, 2014). According to Elmer Koneman (2006), *Candida albicans* is responsible for over 85% of all yeast induced vulvovaginal infections. According to Jill M Krapf (2015), there are few conditions of vulvovaginal candidiasis that are acute, chronic, recurrent or persistent that can involve vulva, vagina, and adjacent crural areas. According to Melissa Conrad (2015), infection like vaginal inflammation, irritation, odor, discharge, and itching will occur when *Candida albican* multiplies to the point of infection. There are few causes of vulvovaginal candidiasis such pregnancy, antibiotic use, uncontrolled diabetes and impaired immune system. According to Menza Nelson (2013), it more commonly happens in pregnant women due to hormonal changes. Approximately 75% of all women experience at least one episode of vulvovaginal candidiasis during their lifetime and 50% of them suffer recurrent events (Deepa V Kanagal, 2014). Vagina will produce more glycogen due to higher level of oestrogen during pregnancy making yeast easier to grow there. Oestrogen may also have direct effect on yeast, causing it to grow faster and stick more easily to the walls of the vagina (Shari Brasner, 2012). Yeast