ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to evaluate pregnant women’s responses to the acceptance of HIV screening test.

A cross-sectional study using a self-administered questionnaire was conducted at the ANC Tu Du hospital, Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam during January 2002, involving 303 pregnant women who came for the first time for antenatal care.

The results of this study revealed that the rate of acceptance of the HIV screening test was 60 percent. The majority of respondents in the acceptance group wanted to know their HIV status and were concerned about their babies health whereas the greater part of the pregnant women who declined the HIV test believed themselves that they did not have or could not get HIV infection. The findings also indicated the misconception of respondents about the mode and prevention of HIV mother-to-child transmission and knowledge about HIV screening test. Most of the respondents wanted voluntary HIV screening test and they supported counseling on HIV/AIDS and HIV screening test should be provided for pregnant women at ANC. The factors were found to be related to the acceptance of HIV screening test were respondents’ gravida, experience of HIV test from previous pregnancy and their husband support.

As a result, IEC and counselling should be emphasized on HIV in pregnancy and HIV screening test not only for pregnant women specially primigravida but also for their husbands at ANC. Midwives or technicians should explain in more detail the HIV test procedure for pregnant women who volunteer to have the HIV screening test. Further research should be an intervention study. It needs to be conducted in community based and the counseling on HIV/AIDS and HIV screening test should be provided as an intervention method.