

## **FP9. RUBELLA IMMUNE STATUS IN A GROUP OF WOMEN AT REPRODUCTIVE AGE**

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**Introduction:** Rubella is generally asymptomatic in healthy adults but during the first trimester of pregnancy often leads to fetal death or severe congenital defects (Congenital rubella syndrome).

**Objective:** To determine the rubella immune status among a group of women at reproductive age attending a reproductive health centre for antenatal care and fertility treatment.

**Methodology:** A retrospective analysis of rubella antibody levels was carried out in a group of women at reproductive age. The total study population consisted of 554 women attending Vindana Reproductive Health Centre for antenatal care and fertility treatment.

**Results:** Of the whole study population (n=554) 29.4% of women were sero-negative for rubella IgG. Past history on rubella immunization or infection were available only in 108 women. Only 39 (36.1 %) of 108 had rubella vaccination prior to assessment. Ninety five percent (n=37) of the immunized women were sero-positive for rubella IgG. However, of the non- immunized women (n= 69), 40.5% (n=28) were sero-negative for rubella specific IgG antibodies. Moreover, of the

108 women whose immunization history was available, 57.4% (n=62) were pregnant and 25.8% (n=16) of them were sero-negative for rubella IgG. Only two of these rubella antibody negative pregnant women were immunized.

**Conclusion:** A considerable number of pregnant women and those who are planning for a pregnancy are still under the risk of getting congenital rubella syndrome infants and immunization of women during reproductive age should be strengthened.