

## Abstract of Master's Dissertation

No.1

Course	MSc (Health Innovation)	Name	Yumiko TAKEHARA
Thesis Title	Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice of Mothers toward Chagas disease in La Guardia, Santa Cruz Department, Bolivia: A Cross-sectional Study		
<p>Background :</p> <p>Chagas disease is a neglected tropical disease, caused by the protozoa <i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> and transmitted by the triatomine bug. The disease is endemic in rural areas of Latin America and causes various symptoms ranging in severity from self-limiting disease to cardiomyopathy, esophageal achalasia, and megacolon. There are other transmission routes including blood transfusion and trans-placental vertical transmission. Based on the annual reports indicating low rate of coverage in Bolivia, this study aimed at assessing a relationship between estimated coverage rate of Chagas test and the knowledge, attitude, and practice score toward the disease in mothers of children delivered within two years in La Guardia region where Chagas is endemic.</p> <p>Objectives :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>General objectives:</b>  To estimate the coverage of serologic test for <i>T. cruzi</i> during the antenatal period and its relevant factors among Bolivian mothers who delivered children younger than two years old in La Guardia.</li><li>• <b>Specific objectives</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ To assess the coverage of Chagas test during the antenatal period among mothers of children younger than two years old.</li><li>▪ To assess the level of knowledge of the disease among the mothers.</li><li>▪ To assess the attitude and the practice of the mothers against Chagas disease.</li><li>▪ To assess the degree of disease stigmatization against Chagas disease among mothers.</li><li>▪ To identify factors influencing Chagas test among mothers of children younger than two years.</li><li>▪ To suggest possible strategies to overcome barriers for pregnant mothers to access more efficient medical care.</li></ul></li></ul>			

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No.2

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<p>Method:</p> <p>This is an analytical, quantitative, structured interview-based, cross-sectional study conducted in four public health centers in La Guardia, Santa Cruz, Bolivia, from September to October 2022. Eligible mothers were recruited from those older than 18 years with a child under two years of age by home visits (face-to-face interviews). Quantitative data were collected through the administration of a structured questionnaire: sociodemographic data, KAP against the disease. Analysis was performed using Stata17 for descriptive, univariate and multivariate levels.</p> <p>Results :</p> <p>A total of 634 participants were recruited in the study. Approximately, three fourths (74.5%, N= 472) reported having been tested for Chagas disease during pregnancy or at the time of delivery of their recent child. This KAP study clearly concluded that higher levels of mothers' knowledge, attitude and practice factors were strongly associated with mothers who claimed to experience Chagas test during the recent pregnancy period.</p> <p>When I saw individual questions by univariate and multivariate regression analysis, 6 significant factors influenced the experience of Chagas test during pregnancy were educational history, Maternal and child handbook, Knowledge of newborn test, Knowledge of National Chagas program, necessity of family member's test, and Experience of treatment.</p> <p>Conclusion :</p> <p>The study estimated that 70% of the participants performed serologic test. In conclusion, those who have high knowledge, attitude, and practice are strongly associated with Chagas disease testing. That raises more responsibilities for not only the health care providers but also the community to make mothers aware of the importance of screening tests in endemic areas.</p>			