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## Acta Medica Iranica

2009;47(4) : 85-100



### INTRAUTERINE INFECTION

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#### Abstract:

Summary : Infection is an important cause of perinatal death in Iran. It can occur in the antepartum, intrapartum and postpartum periods. Infection can reach the foetus by the following routes: 1- Hematogenous spread via maternal blood 2- Ascending amniotic infection 3-transdecidual spread 4- Via fallopian tubes, The two premier' namely, hematogenous and ascending amniotic are the more common and, from a practical point of view, the most important. The hematogenous route provides a way in which all microorganisms, namely viruses, bacteria, fungi and protozoa, can infect the foetus throughout the whole pregnancy period. Ascending amniotic infection is more common and occurs usually during labour. In this vaginal bacteria reach the amniotic cavity directly via the cervical canal. This occurs mostly in labour which has lasted more than 12 hours even when the membranes are still intact or when the membranes have been ruptured for more than 9 hours

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