

## **CHLAMYDIA THRACOMATIS CERVICAL INFECTION PREVALENCE AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH CYTOLOGICALS ALTERATIONS OF THE CERVICAL EPITHELIUM**

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*Chlamydia thracomatis* is a sexually transmitted bacteria frequently associates with uterine cervix infections, acute or chronic, symptomatic or not, in sexually active women. The present study had the objective to analyze the prevalence of this pathogen infection in presence or absence of cervical epithelium alterations. Cervical specimens of 155 women from São José do Mipibu city in RN, were analyzed, with ages ranging from 16 to 70 years old, and an average of 33 years-old. For cytological analysis the Papanicolau (Pap) method was used and the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was performed for *Chlamydia* detection, using primers CP24/CP27 that amplifies a 201 pb plasmid genic segment, present in all strain. Seven of the analyzed women (4,5%) were positive *Chlamydia* DNA and all of them showed cervical epithelium alterations. The general prevalence of the infection was 4,6%, but 85,7% of the cases were diagnosed in women who were more than 35 years old. Most of the analyzed women presented cervical alterations. In a small group, the presence of this bacteria was detected by its plasmidial DNA, being the most prevalent infection between 16-to 35-year-old ones.

Words keys: Cervical infection, *Chlamydia thracomatis* and cytological alterations.