Given the present trends, HCV infection will continue to have a global impact on health in the foreseeable future. The high rate of progression to chronic infection and the lack of effective means of prevention require that HCV infection be differentiated from other cases of viral hepatitis. Most prevalence data available currently from India are derived from blood donors and likely to represent underestimation of the true prevalence / incidence. No comprehensive study has so far been conducted regarding HCV viral hepatitis in pregnancy and mother to child transmission of HCV in India. The present study is a pilot study aimed at addressing this issue.

Future studies on the following lines would add valuable data to support the public health system of our country for effective control of HCV infection.

1. Multicentric Prevalence / incidence studies involving larger study population across geographic regions of India would enable a true national prevalence of HCV in the general population of both men and women of India.
2. Longitudinal follow-up study should be conducted to enable determination of disease outcome in asymptomatic HCV positive mothers and their children.
3. HCV viral load determination in pregnancy associated hepatitis C infection would help in analyzing the transmission rate and disease outcome.
4. Studies on intrafamilial HCV prevalence and molecular analysis of positive individuals would enable understanding of the family clustering pattern of HCV infection.