

Oral conditions among pregnant women attending base hospital Diyathalawa for routine dental assessment and their associates

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Abstract

Oral health has a proven relationship with outcome of pregnancy. On the other hand the general oral health and dental caries are spatially related to several environmental and socio-economic factors. Identifying this need, a mandatory oral assessment was introduced to the antenatal care package in Sri Lanka. This study was done to describe oral conditions and their correlations with selected socio-demographic characteristics among pregnant women attending Base Hospital Diyathalawa for routine dental assessment. A descriptive cross sectional study was done involving all the women attending Dental Clinic at Base Hospital Diyathalawa for routine dental assessment of pregnancy. A data collection sheet was used to obtain information on findings of oral examination. This was also consisted of a component to extract some basic socio-demographic characteristics of participants. Data collection was done by the Dental Surgeons who are attached to Dental Unit. Relevant descriptive statistics were calculated and chi square test was applied to determine associations. A total number of 422 pregnant women were participated who had mean age of 30.6 (SD 4.8) years. Majority had at least a single carried teeth (n= 229, 54.3%) and only 82 out of them had multiple caries. Regarding peri-odontal conditions commonest was plaque formation (n=214, 50.7%) followed by calculi (n=88, 20.9%). Those who were not employed (p 0.001, x2 19.0) and those who had family income of less than Rs. 25000 (p 0.001, x2 10.9) were more likely to present with caries. Gum bleeding (p 0.001, x2 12.5), plaque formation (p < 0.001, x2 11.9) and calculi (p < 0.001, x2 18.9) were also more common among less than Rs. 25000 of family income group. Rates of dental caries and gum problems were alarmingly high among pregnant mothers. Those who had family income of less than Rs. 25000 were more likely to develop dental and gum problems during pregnancy. This warrants to pay more attention towards oral care during pregnancy with special attention to mothers from low income families. Ecological factors that associate with these socio-economic factors which may have associations with oral-health should be further explored.

Keywords: *Dental caries, Oral health, Periodontal diseases, Pregnancy*

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