



A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY TO ASSESS THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT DANGER SIGNS OF PREGNANCY AMONG ANTENATAL MOTHERS IN SELECTED TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL

Obstetrics & Gynaecology Nursing

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ABSTRACT

Danger signs of pregnancy are warning signs that women encounter during pregnancy. The majority of maternal and newborn deaths occurring in developing countries can be attributed to unawareness regarding obstetric danger signs, inability to access health services, illiteracy, social stigmas, and gender inequalities. Women should be made aware of the danger signs so that health care services can be assessed on time, thus reducing maternal and neonatal mortality.

KEYWORDS

Assess ,knowledge ,antenatal Mothers, Danger Signs Of Pregnancy.

INTRODUCTION

In a woman's life, pregnancy is regarded as a normal phenomenon. However, around 40% of pregnancies are said to be high risk, which could lead to adverse maternal and foetal outcomes. Screening for high risk conditions in pregnancies, known as the risk approach, which is a managerial tool and is an integral component of antenatal primary health care. This risk approach involves early detection of high risk pregnancies to ensure prevention of obstetric complications. Risk approach also includes prompt identification of 'danger signs' like bleeding per vagina, premature rupture of membrane, convulsions, swelling of face, hand & feet, severe headache, blurred vision, excessive vomiting, reduced fetal movements, high BP, breathing difficulty, epigastric pain and fever.

Every women needs to be aware of the danger signs of pregnancy as complications can be unpredictable. Maternal morbidity and mortality could be prevented significantly if women and their families recognize obstetric danger signs and promptly seek health care.

Need for the Study

There are evidences suggesting that improvement in knowledge about obstetric danger signs will facilitate early detection of problems and improve the decision making to access appropriate health care.

Besides, these danger signs may be easily identified by non-specialist health workers who form the backbone of primary health care, and may help to counter the lack of skilled birth attendants and emergency obstetric services.

Thus, empowering women to identify danger signs will go a long way in strengthening primary health care. However, little is known about the current knowledge and influencing factors in the study area. Therefore, this study aims to assess the knowledge and determinants of danger signs among pregnant women seeking obstetric care in a tertiary care hospital.

Objectives

- 1) To assess the level of knowledge about danger signs of pregnancy among antenatal mothers.
- 2) To find the association between selected demographic variables and the level of knowledge among antenatal mothers about danger signs of pregnancy.

Methodology

A cross-sectional descriptive survey approach was adopted. The study was conducted among 100 antenatal mothers attending tertiary care hospital. The antenatal mothers were selected as per the inclusion

criteria using convenient sampling method. Institutional ethical approval and written informed consent were taken prior to the study. Research variables under study were level of knowledge and danger signs of pregnancy. The tool used for data collection consists of Socio demographic characteristics and semi-structured questionnaire.

Population

Antenatal mothers attending antenatal OPD of tertiary care hospital

Sample Size

100 participants.

Research design

Descriptive survey design

Sampling Technique

Convenient sampling technique.

Research Instruments

Semi structured questionnaire of socio demographic variables and assessing the danger signs.

Methodology:

A cross-sectional descriptive survey approach was adopted. The study was conducted among 100 antenatal mothers attending tertiary care hospital. The antenatal mothers were selected as per the inclusion criteria using convenient sampling method. Institutional ethical approval and written informed consent were taken prior to the study. Research variables under study were level of knowledge and danger signs of pregnancy. The tool used for data collection consists of Socio demographic characteristics and semi-structured questionnaire.

RESULTS:

The data obtained was tabulated and analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. It was inferred that about half of the study participants had adequate knowledge about vaginal bleeding (58%), fever (55%), PV leak (55%), decreased fetal movements (46%) and excessive vomiting (41%) as a danger sign. Multigravida subjects (56.5%) had significantly adequate knowledge (p value 0.017) about danger signs than primigravida (31.3%) and second gravida subjects (22.2%). About 67% had inadequate knowledge (regarding 5 or less danger signs) and only 33% had adequate knowledge (regarding 6 or more danger signs).

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