

**Assessment of the effect of Inter-pregnancy Interval on
Maternal and Pregnancy Outcome in Fayoum District**

Thesis

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By

NashwaSayedHamed

Assistant lecturer of public Health & Community Medicine
Faculty of Medicine – Fayoum University

Supervised by

Prof. Dr. Eman Mohamed Mahfouz

Professor of Public Health & Community Medicine
Faculty of Medicine -Minia University

ProfDr. NaglaaAbd El khalekELSherbiny

Professor of Public Health & Community Medicine
Faculty of Medicine - Fayoum University

Dr. WafaaYousif Abdel Wahid

Lecturer of Public Health & Community Medicine
Faculty of Medicine - Fayoum University

Fayoum University

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Summary

The ultimate aim is to enhance the proper utilization of reproductive health care program and reproductive health in Fayoum governorate. This is through providing the relevant stakeholders with the necessary information that would help formulation of fitting strategies.

This study was an observational, descriptive cohort comparative study. An interview questionnaire was used. A sample of multigravida women who were in the third trimester and were attending El Hadeka and El Kiman UHC

It was found that the majority of the study women were aging 25- less than 35 years old (60.2%). Regarding residence the study women were nearly equally distributed between urban and rural areas (47.4 and 52.6%). More than one quarter of the study women and their husbands were illiterate or barely could read and write (25.3 and 26.2%) and more than half of them had secondary or high education (59.0 and 58.7%). About one third (32.6%) of the study women had only one previous pregnancy and 11.7% had four or more previous pregnancies. More than half of the study women (58.9%) had CS in their last pregnancy. More than quarter of the study women (25.9%) claimed that they didn't have any health problems in pregnancy. Anemia and UTIs were the most frequently mentioned health problem (60.4 and 50.7%). The IUD was the most frequently used contraceptive method (38.7%) followed by the oral contraceptive pills (29.0%).

Women knowledge and attitude regarding birth spacing was generally good. As, more than 80% of them consider the optimal IPI to be more than 24 months and less than 59 months. Most of the study women (88.9%) claimed that they would wait at least 36 months before attempting to have another child.

The IPI of study women was generally not satisfactory. As more than one third (34.3%) of the study women had short IPI of less than 24 months. The IPI of 24-59 months was represented in less than half of the study women (49.1%) and 16.7% had long IPI of more than 59 months.

While the age of the women, education and their husband education, the number of living children, gender of previous child, duration of breast feeding, the used contraceptive method and low knowledge and attitude score had their significant statistical association with short IPI among the study women, only no or one living children and female gender of the previous child were found predictors of short IPI. Rural residence was also found to be a predictor of short IPI.

Regarding the outcome of this index pregnancy, one of the most alarming finding of our study is the high prevalence of CS (70.6%). Short IPI was found to be significantly associated with prematurity and LBW while long IPI was found to be significantly associated with stillbirth and PIH.

The study concluded that short IPI was represented in about one third of the study women. Study women knowledge and attitude regards birth spacing was generally good and it was reflected on their IPI. Many factors could affect IPI among women as, women age, residence, education, number and gender of living children and used contraceptive method.

Short IPI was associated with prematurity and LBW and long IPI was associated with stillbirth and PIH.

The study recommended that further research is needed to develop tailored strategies to enhance reproductive health and the utilization of the reproductive health care program. Until that happens, more efforts are needed to promote women education and combat gender discrimination. More efforts are needed to decrease the prevalence of CS.