

Maternal Periodontitis a risk factor for Low Birth Weight Babies in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – A Need for Further Research

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Dear Editor

Maternal Health plays an important role in reducing the risk of pregnancy related complications. The Low birth weight is the leading perinatal problems in both developed and developing countries. The Physiological change that occurs during pregnancy affects the oral health of women [1]. The Incidence of periodontitis has increased during pregnancy. Periodontitis is a continuous pathogenic and inflammatory challenge at the systemic level that could cause ulceration in the periodontal pockets. This allows the bacteria to reach the other parts of the organism and thereby creating lesions at different levels [2]. Giving birth to low birth weight babies (Birth weight <2500gms) is a major public health problems across the world and weight at birth is considered as an important indicator for the new born survival and the psychological development of babies [3]. Some of literature suggests that there is a positive relationship between periodontitis and pregnancy outcomes and some other literature argues and concludes that there is no statistical significance between periodontitis and pregnancy outcomes. Very few studies have been done on this particular area in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia. A study by Safia Ali Al-attas showed that there is no association between maternal dental health and low birth weight [4]. Another study by Shanthi Vanka *et al* proved that there is a positive association between maternal periodontitis and low birth weight babies [5]. Similarly, the positive association between maternal periodontitis and low birth weight has been proved by the study conducted by Sameer Abdullah Mokeem *et al*[6].

Very limited literature is available in this particular area in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. However, this topic is still controversial, as some studies did not establish a positive relationship between maternal periodontitis and low birth weight. There is need for further research in this area in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia to have scientific conclusion.

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