

THE IMPACT OF THE ANTENATAL CARE ON THE NEONATAL OUTCOME

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There is strong evidence that the appropriate antenatal care can improve the perinatal outcome via reduction of preventable antenatal risks of the mother and her child. The **aim** of this study was to determine the correlation between the number of antenatal routine visits and the neonatal outcome, regarding several indicators: early neonatal mortality rate, incidence of LGA and SGA babies, birth asphyxia, prematurity rate, perinatal infections. The study was prospective within one year period, obtaining the data out of the women's/newborns' records. Leading point was the recently implemented Clinical Guidelines (for antenatal and neonatal care). The **results** showed that there is high negative correlation between the number of antenatal routine visits and early neonatal mortality rate, premature births and incidence of perinatal infections ($r=0,68$, $r=0,71$ and $r=0,78$ respectively); the correlation coefficient was of medium range for the number of antenatal visits and the incidence of LGA and SGA babies ($r=0,48$ and $0,57$ respectively). Low correlation coefficient was found for the number of antenatal visits and birth asphyxia ($r=0,37$). The exact numbers give clearer picture about the relationship between the indicators. The detailed results clearly highlight the importance of the timely and appropriate antenatal care and the success of perinatal care in terms of preventing risk factors, leading to better outcome of the newborns, thus enabling appropriate growth and development of the child by implementation of the evidence based guidelines as crucial action.

Key words: antenatal care, newborn, neonatal outcome

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