

WATANEE SANGHIRUN : EFFECTS OF DEPRESSION TO HEALTH CARE BEHAVIORS
OF PREGNANT WOMEN AT RATCHAVITHI GENERAL HOSPITAL. THESIS ADVISOR :
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This research has the objective to study the effects of depression to health care behaviors of pregnant women.

The findings of this research were as follows :

1. In the 1st trimester of pregnancy, the percentage of the depressed pregnant women was 35.84 percent and then measuring depression in the same group at the end of the 2nd trimester and the 3rd trimester, the percentage of depressed pregnant women were 42.9 and 35.2 percent respectively.
2. In each trimester, the average level of total health care behaviors of the nondepressed pregnant women were good. The depressed pregnant women were in the same average level as the former group except the average level of mental health care was rather good.
3. In each trimester, the level of total health care behaviors and mental health care of the nondepressed pregnant women were better than depressed pregnant women. ($P < .001$)
4. In each trimester, the depression was significantly correlated with health care behaviors of pregnant women in the opposite direction. ($P = .001$)
5. In each trimester the depression effected the health care behaviors of pregnant women at the .0001 level of significance.
6. There was 29.7 percent of depressed pregnant women had abnormal delivery (vacuum extraction, forceps extraction and caesarean section) and 6.6 percent of them delivered abnormal infants and infants with problems at birth. After delivery, there was only one case who was diagnosed as brief reactive psychosis.
7. The best predicted variables of depression were parents' relationship ($P < .0001$), career and attitude to husband ($P < .05$).