

ABSTRACT

The object of this historical prospective study was to compare the antenatal care, complications and delivery outcome among adolescent mothers with mothers whose age was between 20-30 years old. Data were collected from hospital records of singleton primiparity mothers who had delivered at Maharat Nakornratchasima Hospital during January 1, 1987 to December 31, 1987. The study group consisted of 775 adolescent mothers whose age were between 13-19 years old. The control group consisted of 1,550 mothers who were systematically sampled from 3,650 mothers whose age were between 20-30 years old during the same period.

Result

10.1 percent of adolescent mothers had no antenatal care, 43.5 percent first attended in third trimester and 21.0 percent attended only once. In control group 2.1 percent had no antenatal care, 35.8 percent first attended in second trimester and 16.3 percent attended at least four times. The antenatal care, gestational age at booking and frequency of attendant were significantly difference in both groups.

When the complications and delivery outcome of the adolescent mothers group were compared to the control group, the adolescent mothers had higher incidence of pregnancy induced hypertension (11.3 and 5.0 percent), prolonged second stage of labour (6.3 and 4.8 percent), puerperium fever (1.7 and 0.7 percent), low apgar score (3.5 and 1.0 percent), low birth-weight (15.1 and 7.6 percent) and still

birth (0.9 and 0.7 percent). Antenatal care, postpartum complications, low apgar score and low birth-weight were significantly difference between the adolescent and the control group, but not significantly difference in intrapartum complications and abnormal delivery. When factors of socioeconomic status, maternal health and antenatal care were controlled, the significant difference was only slightly altered.

The conclusion was that, not only age socioeconomic status, maternal health and antenatal care affect the complications and delivery outcome in adolescent mothers; appropriated education and care will also help to reduce the undesirable pregnancy outcome in adolescent mothers.