

Title The Relationship between Maternal Height and Other
Risk Factors, and Infant's Birth Weight
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ABSTRACT

An unmatched case-control study was designed to identify relationships of maternal height and other risk factors to infant's birth weight. The results of this research can be used to prevent the delivery of low birth weight infant. Data were collected by interviewing 180 mothers who delivered low birth weight babies and 360 mothers who delivered normal birth weight babies at the Obstetric and Gynecology department of Rajvithi, Siriraj and Pramongkutklao Hospital during May 1, 1993 to October 31, 1993. Additional data were collected from prenatal care and delivered medical record.

The results of this study clearly indicated that maternal height is associated with infant's birth weight (p -value = 0.004.). The mothers who are shorter than 150 cms. have 1.75 times at risk for having low birth weight infants comparing to mothers who are 150 cms. or taller. Considering the other risk factors, it was revealed that educational level, maternal occupation, family income, parity, amount of food intake, pregnancy interval, hematocrit level and infant's gender are all significant factors involving low birth weight infant in mothers who are shorter than 150 cm. Among mothers with higher educational level, however, the risk of having low birth weight infant is similar between short and tall mothers.

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In summary, maternal height is the indicator of maternal economic status in the past. Since these mothers have poor habits of nutritional intake, they may continue same practice during their pregnancy. In order to lower the risk of having low-birth-weight infant, health care personels must emphasize on antenatal care education, especially nutrition during pregnancy by consuming good nutrient and adequate amount. Periodical visits are also important to prevent other complications that may happen e.g. anemia and emotional problems.