

Thesis Title The Effectiveness of Antenatal Care
Towards Pregnancy Outcome at Ratchaburi
Regional Hospital, Thailand.

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Date of Graduation ~~25~~ May B.E. 2537 (1994).
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ABSTRACT

A hospital-based cross sectional retrospective study was carried out at Ratchaburi regional hospital with the aim of examining the effectiveness of antenatal care towards pregnancy outcome. Seven hundred and ninety mothers who delivered their babies between October 1992 and September 1993 were selected for the study by systematic random sampling. The mothers' antenatal and delivery records were reviewed and utilized to elicit the information required for the study.

The findings showed that mothers who attended four visits and above (74.6%) had good maternal outcome than those with no antenatal care (61.1%).

Similarly, for fetal outcome, mothers with four visits and above (95.7%) were more likely to have good outcome than those with no antenatal care (51.1%).

The study also revealed that 74.9% of the mothers with a low degree of risk had good maternal outcome than those in the moderate/high risk group (45.8%). Likewise, the low risk pregnant mothers (88.2%) had good fetal outcome than those in the moderate and high risk group (73.5%).

In this study, 84.2% of the mothers who had their first antenatal visit in the third trimester were found to have good maternal outcome compared to those who attended in the first trimester (72%). For fetal outcome, it was found that 95.1% of those mothers who had their first antenatal care visit in the first trimester had good outcome compared to 96.2% who attended their first antenatal visit in the third trimester.

It was also found that mothers who were detected after the 24th week of gestation for risk factors (84.2%) had good maternal outcome compared to those detected earlier (72.1%). Regarding fetal outcome, 96.2% of those detected after the 24th week of gestation had good outcome compared to 89.7% of those detected early. It is possible that mothers seek antenatal care elsewhere considering the high mobility of the population and the availability of private clinics in the province. It is also possible that health personnel miss to identify risk factors or delay with the appropriate action once detected.

This study concluded that the number of antenatal care visits, the gestational age at first antenatal care visit, the degree of risk and the time of detection of risk factors were significantly associated to pregnancy outcome. The factors that hinder the effectiveness of antenatal care in ensuring good pregnancy outcome should be addressed.