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**TITLE:** Perceived Barriers of Dental Attendance during Pregnancy

**PREFERRED PRESENTATION TYPE:** Oral

**CURRENT SCIENTIFIC GROUPS & NETWORKS:** Behavioral, Epidemiologic and Health Services Research

**PRESENTER:** Hoda Bahramian

**PRESENTER (INSTITUTION ONLY):** Dental Research Institute, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, School of Dentistry, Tehran University of Medical Sciences

**AUTHORS (FIRST NAME INITIAL LAST NAME):** H. Bahramian<sup>1, 2</sup>, S. Mohebbi<sup>1, 2</sup>, M. Khami<sup>1, 2</sup>

**AUTHORS/INSTITUTIONS:** H. Bahramian, S. Mohebbi, M. Khami, Research Center for Caries Prevention (RCCP), Dental Research Institute, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, IRAN (THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)|H. Bahramian, S. Mohebbi, M. Khami, Community Oral Health Dept., School of Dentistry, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, IRAN (THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)|

**ABSTRACT BODY:**

**Objectives:** Pregnant women's regular dental visits are reported less than optimal worldwide. The aim of this study was to assess the perceived barriers of dental attendance during pregnancy among Iranian pregnant women and the demographic associating factors.

**Methods:** Totally, 252 pregnant women entered the study by cluster random sampling method from those who attended the public health centers in Tehran in 2016. Data was gathered by a Health Belief Model-based questionnaire including items on perceived barriers (n=31), and demographics such as age, education, income, etc. The barriers were scored and a sum variable of barrier was calculated. Descriptive analyses and linear regression were applied in SPSS software version 24.

**Results:** Totally, 221 complete questionnaires were attained (completeness rate of 88%). The mean age of participants was  $27.8 \pm 5.6$  years and the mean gestational age was  $21.5 \pm 8.6$  weeks. The average perceived barriers score of pregnant women was 97.47 (SD=34.54) of the maximum possible of 155. About 42% of participants believed that they didn't know the importance of dental visit during pregnancy and 33% mentioned dental costs as a main barrier to dental visit. About 22% assumed that dental procedures are detrimental to the health of the fetus and are not safe. Half of pregnant women declared that they prefer not to be visited by a dentist if the dentist's gender was male. Those with higher income level perceived more barriers about dental attendance (P-value= 0.03) and no significant association reported with other demographics.

**Conclusions:** Lack of knowledge, cost of dental procedures and cultural misbelieves were reported as the most common barriers of dental attendance during pregnancy. As regards to the importance of regular dental visits for good oral health, there is a need to prioritize and tackle the barriers identified to improve mother and child health.

**TABLE TITLE:** (No Tables)

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**TABLE FOOTER:** (No Tables)

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**KEYWORDS:** Pregnant women, Questionnaire, Barrier, Oral health.

**AWARDS:** IADR Group/Network Award-IADR BEHSR Lois Cohen International Travel Award|IADR Award-IADR Unilever Hatton Competition and Awards |IADR Group/Network Award-IADR BEHSR Outstanding Student Abstract Award|IADR-BSODR Division-Senior Colgate Prize|IADR-BSODR Division-Unilever Poster Prize|IADR-BSODR Division-GSK Mineralized Tissue Research Group (MINTIG)|IADR-CED Robert Frank Awards|IADR-Irish Division-Hatton Awards-Senior Category

**Student Status - Abstracts:** Post-doctoral (Dental or Medical Fellow and PhD)

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