

Attitude and adherence of gynaecologists to oral health promotion for Iranian pregnant mothers

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Aim: Gynaecologists are among the first people to be in frequent contact with mothers during pregnancy. The present study was conducted to evaluate the attitude and practice of gynaecologists with regards to the oral health of pregnant mothers.

Methods: This cross-sectional study was performed in 2021 and 2022 on a random sample of gynaecologists working in private and public practice in Tehran. The addresses and telephone numbers of participants' work place including offices, hospitals and clinics were obtained from the Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Ethics approval was granted by Tehran University of Medical Sciences. After giving their consent, a total of 146 gynaecologists (response rate 70%) were evaluated either in person or online using a validated questionnaire containing 11 practice, 8 attitude and 7 background questions. Data analysis was performed by linear regression modelling in SPSS 26 software. A *p* value > 0.05 was considered as significant.

Results: The mean age of the participants was 41.8 (\pm 10.5 years) and 140 (96%) were women. The mean practice score of participants was 3.3 (\pm 1.7) out of a maximum achievable of 11. The mean score of attitude was 23.2 (\pm 6.2) out of a maximum achievable of 32. Gynaecologists' practice was not significantly related to any of their backgrounds, but their attitude was directly associated with the number of patients visited each day.

Conclusions: In gynaecologists who took part in this study, their oral health practices for their patients was poor and their attitude level was unsatisfactory. The fact that they are in close contact with pregnant women highlights the importance of reinforcing oral health care topics in their curriculum and increasing training courses and programmes for them to support a multidisciplinary approach to oral health promotion.

Keywords Pregnant women, Gynaecologists, Oral health, Practice, Attitude

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