**Original Paper**

**Risk factors and outcomes of placenta previa in pregnant women**

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**Abstract**

**Background and Objective:** Placenta previa (PP) is a common cause of pri-partum bleeding leading to high mortality and morbidity in mothers and neonates. This study was conducted to determine risk factors and outcomes of PP in Golestan province of Iran.

**Materials and Methods:** This case-control study was done on pregnant women admitted for delivery to the Dezyani hospital of Gorgan, Iran during 2002-07. All PP cases were recruited as case group and 251 non-PP ones were entered into the study as control group. Student t-test and Chi-Square test were used to assess the relationship between variables.

**Results:** In this study out of 33473 pregnant cases, 82 women (0.24%) had PP. The mean (±SD) age of mothers with PP was 28.5 (±6.2) years. There was a significant correlation between PP and delivery method (P<0.05). History of cesarean section was significantly higher in cases than controls (P<0.05). The prevalence of hysterectomy due to PP was significantly higher in women with history of cesarean section (24%) than other ones (5%) (P<0.05).

**Conclusion:** We found a significant relationship between history of cesarean section and hysterectomy due to PP. Therefore, PP should be considered in women with a history of cesarean section.

**Keywords:** Placenta previa, Risk factors, Pregnancy, Cesarean section

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