Frequency and severity of domestic violence in pregnant women

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Abstract

Background and Objective: Domestic violence can place mother and fetus at risk. This issue can be prevented through education and basic knowledge. This study carried out to determine the frequency and severity of domestic violence in pregnant women referred to health centers in Arak, Iran.

Materials and Methods: This cross-sectional descriptive study was done on 400 pregnant women referring in health centers in Arak North-West of Iran during 2009. This research was implemented through questionnaires including the demographic characteristic aspects of physical violence, emotional, verbal and financial severity and the factors effected violence on pregnant women. Data was analyzed using Chi-Square, one way ANOVA and Tukey tests.

Results: The overall prevalence of violence during pregnancy was 34.5%. For this rate, 56%, 48%, 23% and 11% were emotional violence, verbal, financial and physical violences, respectively. Marrige age (P<0.035), partnership lenght (P<0.018), family history of marriage (P<0.001), education (P<0.001), occupation of woman and husband (P<0.001) with the outbreak of violence during pregnancy were significantly associated.

Conclusion: This study indicated that the frequency of domestic violence in pregnant women is high, therefore it is sugested women clinic to be established to protect pregnant women suffering from domestic violence during pregnancy.

Keywords: Violence, Pregnancy, Women

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