

3rd World Congress on

MIDWIFERY AND WOMEN'S HEALTH

November 13-14, 2017 | London, UK

Why do women not attend antenatal care in Saudi Arabia?

Wdad Alanazy, Jaynei Rance and Amy Brown
Swansea University, UK

Background: Pregnancy and childbirth related complications are a critical issue. The World Health Organization estimates that complications during this time contribute to over 300,000 deaths of women and adolescent girls worldwide each year. 99% of these deaths occur in women with low income in developing countries. In Saudi Arabia complications during pregnancy and childbirth are high. 12% of maternal deaths worldwide occur here. The infant mortality rate in 2014 was 7.4%, with a stillbirth rate of 12.9%. However, many of these complications are thought to be preventable through better access to antenatal care. Antenatal care facilitates health workers doctors, midwives and the other obstetric technicians to detect prevent and treat pregnancy complications during pregnancy. Improved antenatal care is associated with decreased maternal mortality. However, despite antenatal care being offered in Saudi Arabia, more than 4% of women are not accessing it and presenting to the hospital for the first time while in labour. This increases the risk of complications.

Aim: The main aim of this research was to explore and understand the reasons and barriers behind missing appointment and not attending antenatal care among Saudi women.

Methods: Semi structured interviews were conducted with 21 Saudi Women and nine doctors at three tertiary hospitals in Riyadh. For women, questions explored their attitudes towards antenatal care and any barriers they faced. For health care providers, questions explored their perceptions of why women do not attend antenatal care.

Results: The findings highlighted integration of social and cultural factors, such as themes as to the barriers women face in attending antenatal care. Women felt that, the transportation, poor health care system and employment condition, are the main barriers. The results also showed that women and relative's believes were barriers for women to attend. Professionals highlighted that the level of education and awareness regarded the importance of antenatal care, transportation accessibility and women's believes were the barriers affecting women to take advantage from antenatal care.

Conclusion: Based on the finding of study, a number of recommendations will be made to help women around the world to overcome the barriers that were identified to them accessing antenatal care. There is no magic belt to overcoming constrains, instead, a comprehensive package of social and public health care approach is required.

Biography

Wdad Alanazy completed her Bachelor's degree from King Saud University in Saudi Arabia; Post-graduate Midwifery Diploma from Prince Sultan Medical City in Riyadh and; Master's degree from King Saud University in Saudi Arabia. She is pursuing her PhD at Swansea University in UK in Nursing Department. She is a Lecturer at Majmaah University in Saudi Arabia. She was Clinical Director of Maternity building at Prince Sultan Medical City in Riyadh.

w.m.s.alanazy.806810@swansea.ac.uk

Notes: