



Effect of Previous Child Lactation During Pregnancy on the Pregnancy Outcome and Newborns Birth Sizes

ARTICLE INFO

Article Type

Research Article

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ABSTRACT

Aims In many countries, pregnant women's breastfeeding of the older baby is common and may lead to oxytocin release, uterine contraction and increased maternal energy need. The probable consequences of lactation during pregnancy on the pregnancy outcome and newborn are still unclear. The aim of this study was to investigate the effect of the breastfeeding the older baby during the pregnancy on the pregnancy outcome and newborns' birth sizes.

Methods In this case-control study, during 9 months in maternity units of Birjand, of 2308 multiparous pregnant mothers, 320 were selected through sequential sampling method. The case group consisted of 80 mothers who were breastfeeding the older child during their current pregnancy. Control group included 240 mothers homogenized with the case group, who stopped breastfeeding to the old baby at least 3 months before pregnancy. Two clinical trained nurses gathered newborns birth weight, height, head circumference and pregnancy outcome of two groups. Data were analyzed with SPSS 16 software, student T, Pearson correlation, chi square, Mann-Whitney, and Fisher's exact tests.

Results There was no significant difference between the pregnancy outcome in the case and control groups ($p=0.36$), and between the pregnancy outcome and mothers' breastfeeding behaviors in case group ($p=0.69$). The mean of newborns' birth weight ($p=0.45$), height ($p=0.15$), and head circumference ($p=0.31$) in two groups had no significant difference.

Conclusion Breastfeeding of healthy pregnant mothers to their older child has no remarkable effect on the pregnancy outcome, newborn's birth weight, height and head circumference.

Keywords Breast Feeding; Pregnancy; Birth Weight; Abortion, Induced

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Article History

Received: February 26, 2011

Accepted: September 6, 2011

ePublished: January 15, 2013

CITATION LINKS

[1] Maternal and fetal responses to the stresses of lactation concurrent with pregnancy and of short recuperative intervals. [2] Breastfeeding patterns in rural Bangladesh. [3] Consequences for maternal nutrition of reproductive stress across consecutive pregnancies. [4] Postpartum consequences of an overlap of breastfeeding and pregnancy: Reduced breast milk intake and growth during early infancy. [5] Pregnancy during breastfeeding in rural Egypt. [6] Breastfeeding and weaning in Mali: Cultural context and hard data. [7] Is breastfeeding during pregnancy harmful? [8] Williams obstetrics. [9] An overlap of breastfeeding during late pregnancy is associated with subsequent changes in colostrum's composition and morbidity rates among Peruvian infants and their mothers. [10] Breastfeeding and placental abruption. [11] Breastfeeding: A guide for the medical profession. [12] Breastfeeding during pregnancy. [13] Does breastfeeding induce spontaneous abortion? [14] Breast feeding stimulation in cycling women, pregnant women and a woman with induced lactation: Pattern of release of oxytocin, prolactin and leutinizing hormone. [15] Breast-feeding during pregnancy: In the breastfeeding answer book. [16] Maternal age and fetal loss: Population based register linkage study. [17] Robbins and Cotran pathology basis of disease. [18] Miscarriage rate in pregnancy-breastfeeding overlap.

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