

Abstract

Original Article

The Effect of Occupational Risk Factors on Pregnancy and Newborn Infants of Pregnant Midwives and Nurses in Turkey: A Prospective Study

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Abstract

Background: Nurses and midwives work in dangerous and very dangerous workplace and are exposed to various occupational risks. The risks of exposure during pregnancy is for themselves and threaten also the fetus' health.

Aim: To determine occupational risks encountered by, nurses during pregnancy, and to evaluate the impact of these risks on pregnancy and the health of newborn infants.

Methods: This prospective study was conducted in 127 contactable pregnant employees of a total of 153 midwives and nurses, between March 2013 and August 2014 in the province of Tekirdag, Turkey. These women were interviewed twice before their children were born, and the mothers and their newborn infants were then followed-up via a third interview.

Results: A total of 46.5% of the 127 pregnant and nurses developed a vagina haemorrhage complication during their pregnancy, 11.0% had a spontaneous abortion and 20.5% had given birth prematurely. It was determined that those respondents who experienced vaginal haemorrhages during their pregnancy period and those who gave birth prematurely had had statistically significantly higher exposure to certain risk factors, such as working while standing up and working overtime ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion: This study showed that some occupational characteristics of pregnant nurses are effected on mother and fetus. The protection and support of pregnant healthcare professionals within their working environment, and the development of appropriate strategies in this regard in particular, must be highlighted and addressed.

Keywords: Nurse, Midwife, Occupational risks, Pregnant health workers, Pregnancy, Reproductive system, Spontaneous abortion.