

Outcome of covid-19 pandemic on intrapartumcare of pregnant women in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The study examined outcome of Covid-19 pandemic on intrapartum care of pregnant women in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria. The cross-sectional descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. Five research questions were answered while five hypotheses were tested. The population of the study comprised 13470 pregnant women in the 15 operational primary health centres in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria. A sample size of 394 was selected using stratified random sampling technique through Fischer's sample size determination. The study adopted a self-structured instrument of a 4-likert scale questionnaire for data collection. Face and content validities were ensured by experts including the researcher's supervisors. The reliability coefficient of the instrument was calculated to be 0.78 with the help of Pearson Product Moment Correlation. The research questions were answered using mean and standard deviation. While the null hypotheses were tested using inferential statistics at 0.05 alpha level. Findings revealed that there is a significant difference in the ways in which Covid-19 pandemic has affected intrapartum care of pregnant women in the urban and rural areas of KELGA in Rivers state, Nigeria. It was concluded that there is a negative outcome of Covid-19 pandemic on intrapartum care of pregnant women with regards to childbirth education, management of hyperglycaemia, and intermittent fetal monitoring in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers state, Nigeria. It was therefore recommended among others that more attention should be paid to management of hyperglycaemia among pregnant mothers attending intrapartum care by health specialists at the clinic.

Awareness of importance of antenatal and postnatal exercises among women attending antenatal and postnatal care in primary health centres in Rivers State

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ABSTRACT

Exercises during the period of childbirth afford mothers and the foetus (unborn child and babies) lots of health importance. The aim of this study was to determine awareness of importance of antenatal and postnatal exercises among women attending antenatal and postnatal care in Primary Health Centres in urban and rural setting in Rivers State. The cross sectional study design was used to antenatal and postnatal mothers from four selected primary health centre (Iriebe, Nchia, Orogbum (Garrison) and Elekahia primary health care Centre). The Taro Yamani's formula was used to derive sample size of 154 from the population and a stratified proportionate sampling method to draw samples from each strata of the selected health facilities. After obtaining ethical clearance and informed consent, Semi-structure questionnaire was used to obtain socio-demographic data and information on awareness of antenatal and postnatal exercises as well as the awareness of the importance of both exercises. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse the data obtained for the study. This study revealed that 119(85.7 %) of the respondents were aware of antenatal and postnatal exercises in both rural and urban setting and 96 (73.8%) respondents engage in antenatal and postnatal exercises in both urban and rural setting. There was no significant difference in awareness of antenatal and postnatal exercises between women attending antenatal care in Health Centres in rural and urban settings as evidenced by the T-test which indicated ($p < 0.05$). Awareness and awareness of antenatal and postnatal exercises was satisfactory among women in both rural and urban setting in Rivers State. However, it is pertinent for health practitioners especially nurses in antenatal clinics to enlighten their antenatal and postnatal mothers on the importance of exercises during pregnancy and postpartum, emphasizing on adherence to standard guidelines.

**Evaluation of quality of maternal health services in selected primary health centers in
Rivers State
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ABSTRACT

This study evaluated the quality of maternal health services in selected primary health centers in Rivers State using an embedded mixed methods design. In the quantitative aspect, multistage sampling was used to select seven PHCs while convenience sampling was used to select 384 postnatal mothers across the selected PHCs. Self-administered questionnaire and checklist were used to assess the postnatal mothers and primary health centers respectively. In the qualitative strand, data was collected through in-depth interview of ten health workers who were purposively selected across the selected PHCs. 341 questionnaires and the entire checklist used for the survey were retrieved. SPSS V22 was used in the analytical process and data was analyzed using descriptive statistics. The interview was recorded, reported verbatim and analyzed using thematic approach. The mixing of the data from both strands was done in the discussion section. Results revealed that 40.2% of the postnatal mothers were within age 26-33, 54.8% had secondary school as their highest educational level and 85% were married. Majority of the mothers were satisfied with maternal healthcare services in PHCs in Rivers State, mean was 102.24 ± 11.68 ; the perceived factors influencing the quality of maternal health services in PHCs in Rivers State include, health care delivery (96.2%), adequate human and material resources (94.1%), staff conduct and practice (86.2%) and physical facilities (84.5%); although PHCs with facilities that are available and in good condition were 85.7% they are poorly equipped to support quality basic obstetric emergency care. From the qualitative strand, the health workers had poor perception of the quality of maternal health services in primary health centers in Rivers state. This study found out that the quality of maternal healthcare service in PHCs in Rivers State is poor which is evident by inadequate resources, disproportional skilled/semi-skilled ratio, poor funding and management of the health facilities, lack of training and job satisfaction for the health workers. Based on the study findings, it was recommended that Hospital management and Government agencies should conduct regular monitoring and evaluating exercises including clinical audits and data findings should be utilized towards promoting high quality services in PHCs.

**Perceived health implications of air pollution on pregnancy among healthcare workers in
Bonny Local Government Area, Rivers State**

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the perceived health implications of air pollution on pregnancy among health care workers in Bonny Local Government Area, Rivers State. Six research questions, six objectives and three hypotheses were stated to guide the study. Literature was reviewed under conceptual framework, theoretical framework and empirical review. A descriptive survey design was adopted for the study with a study population which consisted of 200 health care workers in Bonny LGA. The sample size for the study was 146 which was selected using the convenience sampling method. Data was collected using structured questionnaire and analysis was carried out using percentage, bar charts, bivariate and multivariate regression at 0.05 alpha level. The finding of this study showed that the perceived sources of air pollution among the respondents included burning of refuse in the surrounding, burning and clearing of bush, household use of burning woods or kerosene stove, smoke from the exhaust of vehicles, cement dust from construction activities, tobacco use like smoking of cigarettes close to households, carbon monoxide from generators, and pollution emissions from industrial activities. From the perception of the health care workers, air pollution had both physical, psychological and social health effects on pregnant women. It was recommended that, prevention of exposure to air pollution should be part of the health talk given to pregnant women during their antenatal visits in the clinics in Bonny.

**Pregnant women perception of midwife-led antenatal care in public primary health centres
in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State**

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated pregnant women perception of midwife-led antenatal care in public primary health centres in Obio/Akpor Local Government of Rivers State. The descriptive cross-sectional survey design was adopted in this study with a population which consisted of one thousand and five hundred antenatal women in Obio/Akpor. A sample size of 188 was selected using the convenience sampling method. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire and data was analyzed with the aid of the statistical product for service solution using descriptive statistics of percentage, mean and standard deviation and inferential statistics of one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). The result of the study showed that, the level of utilization of midwife-led antenatal care was high; the respondents had positive experiences about midwife-led antenatal care which included: easier access to antenatal care, better experiences when being cared for by a midwife than other health care professionals, and not being made to wait for a long time. The finding of this study also showed that the respondents had good choices of midwife-led antenatal care and the factors that influenced the choices of women on midwife-led antenatal care included: the thought that midwife-led antenatal care is less effective (3.10), cases of emergency (2.68), influence of relatives (2.76), the risk level of the pregnancy (2.67) and husbands' influence. It was recommended that, the midwifery council should organize training for midwives from time to time by employing the services of resource persons to teach, this will equip them on better ways of delivering midwife-led care.

Knowledge and prevention of Fathers postpartum depression among midwives in selected hospitals in Rivers State

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the knowledge and prevention of fathers' postpartum depression among midwives in selected hospitals in Rivers State. The study used a descriptive cross-sectional survey with a study population of 274 midwives. A multi-stage sampling method was used for this study to select 176 midwives working in the antenatal, post-natal and labour wards/unit from 10 hospitals in four LGAs of Rivers State. A self-administered structured questionnaire was used to collect primary data for the study. Data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Findings shown that midwives in Rivers State have moderate knowledge of fathers' postpartum depression. The practice of prevention regarding fathers' postpartum depression among the midwives were low. There were significant differences between midwives' ages, professional qualifications, professional rank/cadres, as well as length/years of service and their levels of knowledge of fathers' postpartum depression. There were also statistically significant associations between professional qualification, professional rank as well as length of service and prevention of fathers' postpartum depression. Based on the findings from the research, conclusions were made that Midwives should pay commensurate attention to the mental health of fathers, especially I the postnatal period; and that they should avail themselves of educational and informative resources on postpartum depression in fathers and effective mental health preventive strategies for fathers.

**Incidence of metabolic syndrome among pregnant women attending antenatal clinic
(September, 2016-August, 2020) in federal medical center Umuahia, Abia State
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ABSTRACT

Metabolic syndrome is a global public health problem affecting approximately 40-46% of world adult population, it is a pathologic condition characterized by hypertension, obesity (particularly central obesity), insulin resistance and high fasting plasma glucose and dyslipidemia. Metabolic syndrome increases the risk of pregnancy complications such as pre-eclampsia and gestational diabetes. Diagnosing metabolic syndrome in early pregnancy may be used to broadly identify women at future risk of CVD thereby, creating opportunity for intervention therapy. The purpose of this study was to report on the incidence of metabolic syndrome and investigate on the factors contributing to metabolic syndrome and its adverse effects on maternal and fetus. Three objectives were formulated to aid in the investigation then several literatures were reviewed to retrieve articles published on metabolic syndrome in pregnancy. Dorathea Orem's theory of self-care was used in supporting the study. Data were collected from antenatal records from 2016 - 2020 in which 222 women out of 2250 folders presented with metabolic syndrome. Data entry and analysis were carried out through the use of SPSS 2.40 and also with a frequency, percentages, mean and standard deviation in tables, chart and graph. Result shows that mostly affected age group was 32 – 39 years which is 64%. Majority were traders despite the fact that they had tertiary education. More than half had hypertension which is 116(52%) as genetic composition, the downward trend in prevalence of metabolic syndrome. The most occurrence of metabolic disorder and maternal outcome was pregnancy induced hypertension which is 163(68.9%) and mostly fetal outcome was large for gestational age which is 6(40.0%). There is significant relationship between age, occupation, genetic composition, house hold income, and maternal outcome and metabolic syndrome. Recommendations and suggestion for further studies on metabolic syndrome were made.

**Serum ferritin level in women attending antenatal care in university of Port Harcourt
Teaching Hospital, Port Harcourt**

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated serum ferritin levels in women attending antenatal care in the university of Port Harcourt teaching hospital, Rivers State. A cross-sectional descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. Four research questions were answered while a null hypothesis was tested. The population of the study comprised 2500 pregnant women. The 394 sample of the study was selected through stratified random sampling technique and determined using Fischer's sample size determination. The study adopted standardized instruments for the laboratory assay and a questionnaire was adopted as the instrument for data collection. Face and content validities were ensured by experts including the researcher's supervisors. The reliability coefficient of the instrument was calculated to be 0.77 with the help of Pearson Product Moment Correlation coefficient. The research questions were answered using mean and standard deviation. While the null hypothesis was tested using inferential statistics at 0.05 alpha level. Findings revealed an average of 11.96 per cent of the pregnant women had less than 20 micrograms per litre of serum ferritin level while 10.87 per cent had between 20 and 40 micrograms per litre of serum ferritin level. It was concluded that lesser proportion of the women had adequate serum ferritin level this can be attributed to their poor living environment and poor diet. It was therefore recommended among others that community health workers and/or midwives should be mobilized to sensitize all women and young girls on ferritin level and the need to carry out regular ferritin level check.

**Application of information-motivation-behavioural skills model in preventing malaria among antenatal clinic Attendees in Taraba State specialist hospital
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ABSTRACT

Malaria significantly continues to remain a global challenge. Descriptive survey design using IMB model was used to assess IPTP-Information Adherence and appointment keeping among pregnant women. This explains how IPTP-information adherence can be achieved efficiently in malaria treatment. Validated questionnaire was used to gather information from 404 ANC attendees. Descriptive statistics and frequency distributions were employed in the analysis of data and simple linear regression analysis used to determine the relationship among variables. Result showed respondents mean age of 28.74 ± 68.07 , married (70%), self-employed (48.8%), Muslims (52%) of Fulani ethnic origin (25.3%), and secondary educational attainments (39.9%). Information on 22-points scale reported a mean of $17.8 (0.1) \pm 1.9$ having significant relationship with behavioral skills ($r = 0.199$ and $R^2 = 0.040$), $p < 0.0001$ and adherence ($r = 0.114$ and $R^2 = 0.013$), p -value < 0.022 ; Comprehension on 74-points scale reported a mean score of $47.6 (0.6) \pm 12.5$. Motivation on 40-points scale reported $28.4 (0.2) \pm 3.7$ having significant relationship with behavioral skills ($r = 0.255$, $R^2 = 0.065$), P -value = < 0.0001 and Adherence ($r = 0.159$, $R^2 = 0.025$), P -value = < 0.001 . Behavioral skills on 36-points scale scored $30 (0.2) \pm 3.2$, having significant relationship with Adherence ($r = 0.101$, $R^2 = 0.010$), P value = < 0.042 . Adherence on 45-points scale reported $27.1 (0.3) \pm 5.0$. However, respondents achieved adherence prevalence rate of 60.2% away from the minimum adherence rate of 95%. Information is important but behavior change will be more effective with the inculcation of motivational components than the usual clinic-based counselling.

Keywords: Demography, Information, Adherence, Motivation, Behavior

First trimester blood urea nitrogen and risk of gestational diabetes in pregnant women in Port Harcourt metropolis

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ABSTRACT

This study evaluated first trimester blood urea nitrogen and risk of gestational diabetes mellitus in pregnant women in University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH). Three (3) objectives and research questions guided the study which was a descriptive cross sectional survey. The study population included all first trimester pregnant women accessing antenatal care in the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital at the time of conducting this study which totalled 112. The entire 112 first trimester pregnant women were selected to participate in the study using the total sampling method. The instruments for data collection consisted of a structured questionnaire and blood samples of the pregnant women. The structured questionnaire elicited information on socio-demographic characteristics of the study participants while the blood samples provided data on blood urea nitrogen levels of the pregnant women. The questionnaires were administered on the study participants by direct delivery and retrieval approach. Blood samples were collected on antenatal clinic visits after due ethical approval was granted. Data analysis was done using descriptive statistics of frequencies, percentages and mean at 0.05 level of significance. Results revealed that higher blood urea nitrogen levels were recorded in women who were older, had higher proportion of parity and gravidity; there is no significant association between marital status and serum blood urea nitrogen levels ($P > .05$); high levels of blood urea nitrogen were significantly associated with elevated risk of gestational diabetes irrespective of maternal age, gravidity and parity; there are significant associations between high blood urea nitrogen and gestational diabetes mellitus; Statistical tests for interactions between blood urea nitrogen and these interesting factors on outcome were not significant ($P > .05$). The study concluded that higher concentrations of blood urea nitrogen during the first trimester of pregnancy were positively and independently associated with increased risk of gestational diabetes. Based on the study findings routine monitoring of renal functioning of women as well as their overall endocrine and metabolic changes during pregnancy were recommended. It was also recommended that pregnant women be encouraged to attend antenatal care clinics regularly.

Combined in-person and tele-obstetrics: midwives and nurses knowledge, perceived ease-of-use and usefulness, attitude and acceptance in West Africa

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ABSTRACT

Tele-obstetrics, which is the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in obstetric care has been known to enhance obstetric care and resolve unequal distribution and poor access to quality healthcare by pregnant women. To evaluate future implementation, this study employs the original Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) of Davis Fred where level of knowledge, perceived ease-of-use, perceived usefulness, attitude and level of acceptance of combined in-person and tele-obstetric care was assessed. A cross-sectional descriptive design involving midwives and nurses at the maternity care service areas of 10 hospitals in 09/10 regions of Cameroon was used. A sample size calculated was used to calculate the sample size and a non-probability convenient sampling method used to select participants. We designed a 235 points survey questionnaire covering population characteristics and a five-sectioned likert-scale questions to answer the research objectives. A total of 138 midwives/nurses were recruited with respondent rate of 85.5%. IBM SPSS 20 statistical tools of frequency, mean, standard deviation and standard mean error were used to analyze data meanwhile hypotheses was tested at 0.05 alpha level using chi-square analysis. Only a minority 23.7% of respondents had good knowledge of tele-obstetrics, majority 72.0% perceived it not easy-to-use. A good number 68.6% perceived tele-obstetrics useful. Majority 79.7% had a positive attitude towards tele-obstetrics. Acceptance of tele-obstetrics was moderate at 61.02%. Conclusively, there is low levels of knowledge and high perceived difficulty to use tele-obstetric devices/systems leading to moderate acceptance so, implementation of an operational tele-obstetric system may increases knowledge and alleviate fear in perceived ease-of-use thereby heightening acceptance.

Key wards: Tele-obstetrics, Knowledge, Perceived, Ease-of-use, Usefulness, Attitude, Acceptance, Midwives, Nurses, Cameroon.

Perceived informatics competencies among midwives in the Sunyani municipality of Ghana

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ABSTRACT

In most recent times, data innovation is a vital component of the medical care sector and allows healthcare authorities to possess primary technological expertise to control and use technology to provide care, as well as computer skills. Midwives are expected to provide quality and efficient care to their clients in this rapid advancement in ICT across the globe hence the need to build the knowledge and skills in the application of ICT. The survey sort to determine the informatics competencies among midwives in some randomly selected health care facilities in the Sunyani municipality of Ghana. Using quota sampling method, 300 respondents were recruited from these six (6) health facilities using the electronic data management system in their operations. The study revealed that most of the practicing midwives were young adults with diploma. It was also found out that majority of the respondents have basic knowledge in computers and its application across the professional ranks. It was again found out that there was no significant relationship between informatics competencies across professional ranks and working experience in years of the midwives which can be attributable to the fact that most of the instructions content of midwifery informatics seeks to introduce the trainee midwives to the basics of midwifery informatics. It was therefore suggested that the curriculum for midwifery informatics be reviewed to include other advance programs and periodic organization of training programs or workshops for practicing midwives.

Keywords: Informatics, Competencies, Midwives, Computers, Technology.

**Knowledge and prevention of hidden hunger in children among mothers attending
paediatric clinic in rivers state university teaching hospital, Port Harcourt**

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ABSTRACT

A descriptive cross sectional study was carried out among 420 mothers with children (0-1000 days old) with a mean age of 29.38 ± 12.91 at Paediatric Department of RSUTH, which was selected by purposive random sampling methods during the period of study. The aim of study is to assess the knowledge and prevention of hidden hunger of mothers with children (0-1000 days old). The results of this study indicated a high prevalence of stunting (49.4%) and wasting (15.5%) among children in Rivers State Teaching Hospital. The underweight levels were, however, of medium/moderate severity. About 91.7% and 69.8% of the respondent had knowledge about micronutrient deficiency diseases (MND) and their classes. More than ninety percent (94.0%) of the respondents have adequate knowledge about sources of energy given foods from rice, bread and cereals, 50.5% were aware of the sources of body building foods from milk and milk product and 83.8% knows that protective food comes from fruits and vegetables. Only 19.0% were anaemic, 6.7% suffering from scurvy, 0.5% suffering from goiter and 0.7% among other underlining nutritional diseases condition. About 33.3% of the respondents know about hidden hunger from books, 27.5% from health workers, 20.3% from newspaper/magazine, 11.9% from TV/radio and only 7.0% of them known from family members and friends.

Keyword: Knowledge, Prevention, Hidden hunger, Children, Mothers, Paediatric, RSUTH

Midwives' perception of and utilization of maternal birthing positions during second stage of labour in Owerri Imo State
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ABSTRACT

The study aimed at examining the perceptions and utilization of maternal birthing positions by midwives in Owerri, Imo state. The study adopted the descriptive survey research design, with 110 sample size randomly selected for the study in both selected public and private hospitals. Questionnaire and interview schedule were used to elicit response from the respondents. The positions used for this study were the Lithotomy, and Dorsal which are Horizontal position and alternative positions which are Semi-recumbent, All-fours and Squatting. The result showed that 84% of the respondents positively perceived the lithotomy position while 16% perceived it negatively, 72% perceived the dorsal position positively, while 28% perceived it negatively, 36% perceived the semi-recumbent position positively, while 64% negatively, 40% positively perceived the all-fours while 60% have negative perception, 22% positively perceived the squatting, while 78% negatively. More respondents perceived the horizontal position to be more advantageous, comfortable and convenient for the mother and midwife and disadvantageous because it leads to the vena cava compression. More respondents perceived the alternative position to be more disadvantageous because the baby may fall. This is not in line with evidence-based study that revealed the alternate positions to be beneficial for the mother and child. On the utilization of maternal birthing positions, majority used horizontal positions and fewer numbers used alternate positions due to hospital policies, lack of equipment and mothers' preference. The study recommends the mandatory update training of midwives and mothers on alternative birthing positions, provision of equipment and removal of unfavourable hospital policies.

Keywords: Maternal birthing positions, horizontal position, alternate position, Midwives' perception.

**Midwives' knowledge and clinical decision making on preconception care in teaching
Hospitals in Rivers State
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ABSTRACT

The study inquired into the midwives' knowledge and clinical decision making on preconception care in Teaching Hospitals in Rivers State. The study was guided by three particular goals, three research questions, and three hypotheses. The study was conducted using a cross-sectional, single-stage, single-group research design. The research included 793 midwives working at Rivers State Teaching Hospitals (UPTH and RSUTH). The Taro Yamane method was used to determine the sample size for the research, which included 266 midwives in Rivers State. The study's research tool was called the Knowledge and Clinical Decision-Making Inventory (KCDMI). Section A and Section B were the two primary portions of the instrument. Section A had demographic information on midwives, whereas Section B included knowledge and clinical decision-making on preconception care among midwives, which was divided into three groups. The instrument's dependability was determined using the Cronbach alpha technique, yielding a reliability value of 0.86. The study questions were answered using mean and standard deviation, while the hypotheses were tested using a one-sample t-test. The study discovered that midwives working in teaching hospitals in Rivers state have a good understanding of the fundamentals of preconception care, that midwives working in teaching hospitals in Rivers state possess the vital and fundamental clinical decision-making skills required to effectively provide preconception care to women of childbearing age, that there is a shortage of manpower, and that there is insufficient resources. The following suggestions were made based on these observations. Consistent support from the Federal Ministry of Health, the Federal Ministry of Education, and other health-related organizations and individuals to improve Health Care Professionals' Preconception Care understanding via pre-service and in-service training. There should be provision of continuous training and other source of published information by federal ministry of Health to enhance the knowledge of Health Care Professionals working in the health centers by involving universities and professional organizations.

Knowledge, utilization and factors associated with vaccination during antenatal care in primary health centres in Obio/Akpor Local Government

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ABSTRACT

The overwhelming majority of morbidity and mortality in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State is attributed to infectious diseases that occur in infants who are 3 months and younger. This study aimed to determine the knowledge, utilization and factors associated with vaccination during antenatal care among pregnant women at primary health Centres in Obio/Akpor Local Government of Rivers State. The study made use of a non-experimental descriptive study design approach with a proportionate sampling technique. It made use of a researcher-developed questionnaire to acquire data which has reliability coefficient of 0.80 using a test retest reliability method. A sample size of 321 pregnant women were sampled from a population of 3215 pregnant women who attended the Primary Health Centres within one month. Three (3) research questions and two hypotheses guided the study. Mean, standard deviation and Spearman ranking were used for data analysis. Result reveal that the pregnant women possess moderate level of antenatal vaccination knowledge, and used the Primary Health Centres for antenatal vaccination moderately. Also it revealed that religious and cultural backgrounds do not influence their utilization level. For the correlation; analysis revealed an $R^2 = 0.526$, P-value = 0.003 for the relationship between age and utilization; and $R^2 = 0.652$, P-value = 0.002 for the relationship between educational status and utilization which revealed a strong relationship between the variables considered. The study suggests important focus points for informing and implementing educational activities for the benefits of knowledge and utilization of antenatal vaccination among women to reduce the high rate of morbidity and mortality associated with infections that occur in pregnant women and infants.

Perception and predictors of domestic violence among pregnant women attending antenatal clinic in federal medical centres in South-East

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ABSTRACT

This study examined Perception, and predictors of domestic violence among pregnant women attending clinic in some selected Federal Medical Centres in South East. Three research questions guided the study. The descriptive design was used for this study. The study population comprised of all pregnant women, who are currently visiting the antenatal units of this federal medical centers in south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The multi-stage sampling technique was used 350 pregnant women for the study. Data was collected using a self-structured questionnaire. Data was analysed using frequencies and percentages. The results showed that the Perception of domestic violence is adequate (45.88%), knowledge of domestic violence was adequate (61.76%), and have been abuse emotionally during pregnancy (57.65%). The results further revealed that pattern of domestic abuse includes occasionally keep away from home during pregnancy (58.24%) and verbally abused (45.88%); and had never been sexually abused (98.24%), attacked with an object (94.12%) and threatened during pregnancy (76.47%). Factors associated with domestic violence include occasionally been restricted from handling finance (49.4%), insulted by partner's relative (45.35), denied from decision making (25.3%) and getting drunk (13.5%). It was concluded that domestic violence on pregnant women attending antenatal clinic in federal medical centers in south east can be avoided by addressing socio-cultural gender stereotypes and eschew potential risks that can cause friction and misunderstanding in any relationship. The study recommended among others that the Federal Government should appropriately implement the National Gender policy in Nigeria, by doing this may help in eradicating women from all forms of violence in the society.

**Birth experiences and satisfaction with birth among women in selected health care facilities
in Umuahia during covid -19
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ABSTRACT

This study was set to explore the birth experiences and satisfaction with birth among women in selected healthcare facilities in Umuahia, Abia State, during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The study adopted a concurrent mixed method design. Fifteen women who delivered in two hospitals in Umuahia from March to December, 2020 were purposively selected for the qualitative study while 300 participants were recruited for the quantitative study. A validated researcher-developed questionnaire and an interview guide were used as instruments for data collection. The reliability index of 0.75 was determined using the test-retest method for quantitative data and trustworthiness for qualitative study. Quantitative data were subjected to descriptive statistics while qualitative data were analyzed using thematic content analysis. 5 themes and 18 subthemes emerged from the study. Results of major findings for quantitative data revealed that majority (82.14%) of the women reported childbirth experience of being respected and honored during the childbirth process, not abandoned when needed help (89.29%), and no informal payment (96.43%) and for the qualitative study, participants had both positive and negative experiences. However, few participants expressed dissatisfaction with the health services provided at the hospitals. The study concluded that majority of women had a positive experience and were satisfied with care while some had a negative experience and dissatisfaction with care. The study recommended that Health care givers need to fully understand the expectations that the mothers have for their care and provide care that is consistent with those expectations.

Key Words: Childbirth experience, Satisfaction with birth, Women, COVID-19 Pandemic

**Birth outcomes in health facilities near Eleme-refinery in Rivers State compared to
Ubakala-Umuahia Abia State
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ABSTRACT

Air pollution due to fossil fuel exploration compose the largest environmental risk to human populations globally. Pregnancy is perceived as a period of vulnerability and birth outcome is an important midwifery concern. This study aimed to compare birth outcomes between primary health facilities in the air polluted Eleme and the less air polluted Ubakala-umuahia between 2015 and 2020. Births in Eleme represented the exposed group, while births in Ubakala-umuahia represented the non-exposed group. A retrospective comparative cohort design based on obstetric/midwifery records of birth was used. A sample size of 412 (n = 206 exposed and n = 206 non-exposed). Systematic sampling technique was utilized in the selection of participants' records. A data extraction sheet was used. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics. Test of hypotheses was done using Chi square, Fisher's exact test, and Relative risk statistics. About 13.1% of preterm newborns, 5.8% of stillbirths, 16.5% of low birth weight babies, and 6.3% of congenital abnormalities were found in the exposed group. Approximately 5.8% of preterm newborns, 3.4% of stillbirths, 8.7% of low birth weight newborns, and 1.0% of congenital anomalies were in the non-exposed group. Preterm birth risk was 2 times higher in the exposed group than in the nonexposed group (p = 0.012). Between the exposed and non-exposed groups, there was a significant difference in birth weight (p = 0.018) and congenital abnormalities (p = 0.004). When compared to the non-exposed group, participants in the exposed group had 89% higher risk of low birth weight and a 6 times higher chance of congenital abnormalities. The risk for adverse birth outcomes was higher in the exposed group compared to the non-exposed group. Prospective studies on the toxicological effect of air pollution on birth outcomes are hence recommended.

Keywords: birth outcomes Air quality, primary health facilities and Eleme Refinery

Nursing and midwifery students' knowledge of ICT in health care delivery in Bayelsa State.

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ABSTRACT

This study assessed the knowledge of ICT by nursing and Midwifery students in health care delivery in Bayelsa State. Five objectives, five research questions and two hypotheses were stated to guide the study. A cross-sectional descriptive research design was used with a population which included all nursing and Midwifery students in Bayelsa state. A sample size of 327 was selected using a multistage sampling procedure. Data was collected using questionnaire and analyzed using percentage, mean standard deviation and chi-square statistics. The result of the study showed that; the respondents had poor knowledge of ICT, they had a low capacity of competency in the use of ICT, they were unable to apply the ICT in patients' management. On the other hand, the respondents demonstrated a good use of clinical information system to input all patient records however, there was a poor usage of ICT for checking vital signs, for ICT intravenous devices, mobile charts, drug retrieval, delivery system, and for interacting with patients. The study concluded that, both knowledge and use of ICT among nursing and Midwifery students in health care delivery in Bayelsa State was low and the factors which had high influence on the use of ICT were lack of ICT facilities, lack of affordable ICT equipment, and lack of electricity supply. Thus, the government should put the necessary ICT resources in place by making fund available for the procurement of such technologies.

Keywords: Knowledge, Use, Information, Communication, Technology, Healthcare

**Nutrients and heavy metal composition of the breastmilk of women attending postnatal clinic in Rivers State
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ABSTRACT

Breast milk is considered to be the perfect food for infants. The aim of this study was to compare the nutrients and heavy metal composition in breast milk in postpartum women in urban and semi-urban areas in Rivers state. 59 subjects from the urban area (Port Harcourt metropolis) and 59 subjects from a sub-urban settlement (Eleme) between the ages of 18 to 45years. Human breast milk samples collected were within the first 10days after delivery using a manual breast pump technique. Chemistry Autoanalyzer was used to assay carbohydrate, protein and lipid while Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS) was used to assay the metals. The results revealed that carbohydrate level in urban and sub-urban group which was statistically significant (t-value=2.2; p-value=0.04). Protein level in urban and sub-urban group which was statistically non-significant (t-value=0.6; p-value=0.57). Lipid level in urban and sub-urban groups was statistically non-significant (t-value=1.2; p-value=0.27). The results also revealed that Zinc level in urban and sub-urban group was statistically non-significant (t-value=2.1; p-value=0.07). For heavy metal analysis, Lead level in urban group and sub-urban group was statistically non-significant (t-value=1.2; p-value=0.28). Cadmium level in urban and sub-urban groups was statistically non-significant (t-value=1.0; p-value=0.36). Mercury level in urban and sub-urban groups was statistically non-significant (t-value=1.0; p-value=0.36). This work has revealed that difference in settlement has limited effect on breast milk composition except in carbohydrate.

Nutrient quality of the breast milk of diabetic postpartum women attending postnatal clinic in Umuahia North LGA, Abia State

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the nutrient quality of breast milk among postnatal women attending postnatal clinic in Umuahia North Local Government Area, Abia State. A checklist was used to obtain information from postnatal women, the specific objectives are to identify the nutrient composition of the breast milk of diabetic postpartum women, composition of breast milk during one single feed of diabetic postpartum women and identify the factors influencing the quality of breast milk of diabetic postpartum women attending postnatal clinic in Umuahia North Local Government Area, Abia State while the research question seeks to address the following questions; what is the nutrient composition of the breast milk of diabetic postpartum women attending postnatal clinic, what are the changes in the composition of breast milk during one single feed and what are the factors influencing the quality of breast milk of diabetic postpartum women attending postnatal clinic in Umuahia North Local Government Area, Abia State. King's Conceptual System (1971) interactive theory of breastfeeding theory was used as a theoretical framework for the study. The analysis was based on the values of breast milk nutrients (protein, Ash, lipid, CHO and moisture). Frequency table, chart, regression analysis as well as t-test was used to analyze the information of thirty (30) diabetic and fifteen (15) nondiabetic postpartum women. More than half of the women were at their early child bearing age of 20 – 29 years and they were all Christians. Majority of them were civil servant with secondary school education background. Majority delivery their babies at a due time while preterm babies. Majority of them were obese. Their average quality of the protein, Ash and moisture were good. There were no significant changes in composition of their breast milk during one single feed. Also, there is no significant different in quality of breast milk nutrients of diabetic and healthy women. Each of the independent variable singularly had effects on one or the other nutrient of breast milk except on protein. There is a very weak positive insignificant relationship between lipid, carbohydrate and infants' development but very weak negative insignificant relationship between quality of protein, Ash, Moisture of breast and their infants' growth.

Prevalence and determinants of intimate-partner violence among women attending Mbarara city health centre IV, Uganda, during the covid-19 pandemic

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ABSTRACT

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) during pregnancy is a significant public health problem worldwide. Evidence reveals that the conditions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic have led to a perfect environment for IPV to thrive. The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence and determinants of IPV during the COVID-19 pandemic among pregnant women. In a cross-sectional study design, 345 pregnant women attending Mbarara City health Centre IV were consecutively enrolled in this study. A pre-tested semi-structured questionnaire adapted from the WHO Multi-Country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence was used to collect data. Data was analyzed using SPSS, univariate and bivariate analyses were done. Of the 345 pregnant women 67.5% experienced some form of IPV. Majority 43.8% of the participants were aged 20-24, 43.5% were primigravidas, some 46% were Anglican, majority 79.4 were banyankore by tribe, 95.4% were living with their partner, 40.9% were self-employed, some 162(47.0%) had attained secondary level of education, The forms of IPV experienced included: Controlling behaviors 188(54.5%) Psychological 127(36.8%), Sexual 84(24.3%), economical 99(28.7%) and the least form experienced was physical violence at 33(9.6%). Generally IPV experience was significantly influenced by marital conflict. The predictors of psychological IPV experience were marital conflict and emotional support from relatives. The strongest predictor of experiencing controlling behaviors was marital conflict. The strongest predictors of sexual violence experience were decision making, extramarital conflict, Participants aged ≥ 35 , Communication with family of origin. The predictors of economical violence experience were decision making, extramarital conflict, financial support from relatives and marriage duration. Majority 24.5% mentioned joblessness as a contributor of IPV experience. These findings show a high IPV prevalence pointing to the need for health care providers to routinely screen for IPV during antenatal care more so in pandemics if IPV experience is to be reduced.

Keywords: Intimate partner Violence, Pregnancy, COVID-19 pandemic Uganda

Practices and determinants of essential newborn care among midwives in selected health facilities in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State

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ABSTRACT

This study was on the practices and determinants of essential newborn care among midwives in selected health facilities in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. The study employed descriptive survey research design. It was a comparative study to compare between the practices of newborn care found among midwives in the tertiary institutions and the primary health care sector; since neonatal mortality is high in rural setting than in urban areas where tertiary institutions are sited. The study sample comprised 248 midwives from maternity unit, infant welfare clinic and special care baby units and the method of sampling was purposive sampling. Data was collected using structured questionnaire and was analysed using SPSS version 24 after data entry and cleaning has been done. 246 questionnaires were retrieved and the study revealed 87% of the respondents at the tertiary level and 100% of responses from the PHC facilities identified neonatal resuscitation, 58.5% tertiary level responses and 42.3% PHC level responses identified thermoprotection, and 58.5% (tertiary) and 84.6% (PHC) identified use of chlorhexidine gel for infection prevention and control as practice of essential newborn. 62.6% (tertiary) and 43.9% (PHC) had knowledge of essential newborn care and 27.6% (tertiary) and 31.7% (PHC) identified availability of WHO recommended guidelines as determinants of essential newborn care. The study concluded that adequate knowledge in certain newborn care practices is crucial to effective practice of essential newborn care. The study recommended that training and retraining, collaboration and education at the grass root level and availability of equipment and trained manpower to man the equipment is vital for effective practice of essential newborn care.

Keywords: Practices, Determinants, Essential, Newborn, Care, Midwives

Perceived psychological impact of infertility amongst infertile couples attending gynaecological clinic in JUTH and Kauna specialist hospital Jos

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ABSTRACT

This study was embarked upon to assess the perceived psychological impact of infertility amongst infertile couples attending gynecological clinic in JUTH and Kauna Specialist Hospital Jos. Infertility has being a problem for so many couples in the country leading to failed marriage and divorces. The study was guided by five objectives. The study also made used of a cross-sectional descriptive survey involving 110 respondents selected from patients with infertility challenges attending Gynaecological Clinic and IVF centers in Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH) and Kauna Specialist Hospital, Jos. The questionnaire was the research instrument used for the study. The data was analyzed using descriptive cross sectional survey while Chi-square (χ^2) statistics was used to test the hypothesis. From the findings it was discovered that due to the case of infertility, most of the respondents are facing challenges in their marital life leading to them experiencing depression in their life. Also, it was disclosed that most of the respondents are experiencing psychological condition due to the infertility. Furthermore, the study revealed that there are many coping strategy in dealing with psychological stress result from infertility among couples. However, the finding disclosed that religious and cultural belief plays in important role in the poor utilization of ART services by infertile couples. The test of hypothesis disclosed that depression among infertile couple in JUTH is significantly associated with psychological condition experienced by couple. Based on the findings of the study it can be concluded that infertility and its treatment process for infertile women is a source of psychological suffering with devastating effects on psychological well-being of infertile couples. Thus it is recommended that interventions should aim to diminish guilt associated with past sexual activities, sexually transmitted diseases or abortions and allow for catharsis within an empathic milieu that also seeks to promote optimism and decrease feelings of isolation and loneliness.

Relationship between optimal hydration in labour and incidences of perineal tears during delivery in national hospital, Abuja

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to investigate the levels of hydration and incidences of perineal tears, of women who had deliveries at the National Hospital, Abuja. Also, to investigate into the relationship between optimal hydration in labour and incidences of perineal tears during delivery in National Hospital, Abuja. Retrospective data of women who had spontaneous vaginal deliveries in National Hospital, Abuja, over a 5 year period, from January 2015 to December 2019 were obtained from their records. Data obtained **include** parity of women, amount of fluids received orally and intravenously (in millilitres), degrees of lacerations, head circumferences and weights of the babies, etc. These variables were recorded under IBM SPSS version 25. Of the 3599 vaginal deliveries, 81 were studied. 69 respondents (85.2%) had recorded no oral fluids in labour, and 67 (82.7%) recorded no intravenous fluids throughout labour. 29 (36.3%) of the respondents had first degree tear, 2 (2.5%) had second degree tear, and 46 (57.5%) had intact perineum. The mean weight and head circumferences of the babies were 3.16kg (SD= ± 0.36), and 34.73cm (SD= ± 1.08) respectively. The highest number of perineal tears 15(57.7%) were in the 31-35years age group but also, women of age 26-30years age group had highest number of intact perineum (24 = 77.4%). Using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC), there is no significant relationship between optimal hydration and incidence of perineal tear. Women should however be allowed to have fluid when in labour, to drive oxygen to the cells and muscles of their perineum, to make available glucose for proper stretching.

**Perception and experience of postpartum contraceptive use among mothers in Emekuku,
Owerri North Local Government Area, Imo State.**

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ABSTRACT

This is a descriptive study which aimed at exploring the perception and experience of post-partum contraceptive use among mothers in the Emekuku Community in Owerri North Local Government Area, Imo State, Nigeria. During the research study, the following four general objectives/research questions were formulated as the research variables: perception of postpartum contraceptive use, experience of postpartum contraceptive use, the pattern of postpartum contraceptive use and, the associated factors to postpartum contraceptive use. Data were sourced primarily through in-depth interview with interview guide which were distributed in the community to mothers (the respondents). A sample size of twenty (20) respondents was randomly selected from the target population using purposive sample technique method. Thus, descriptive statistics of the demographic characteristics were analyzed based on frequency and percentages, coding, subthemes, and themes. It was however revealed that with the right knowledge and perception, mothers would benefit from family planning, need to encourage mothers to use postpartum contraceptives because they reduce both maternal and infant mortalities, that the use of mini-pills, condom, long-acting reversible contraceptive and lactational amenorrhea, are effective postpartum contraceptive methods.

In conclusion, there is a need for improvement in women education in cooperation of numerous interest groups as they are central in improving access to postpartum family planning use and delivering adequate public messages for couples on pregnancy risks prior to the return of menses and advising them to use family planning, more so delivery messages for couples on having unprotected sexual intercourse put them at the risk of getting pregnant early in the postpartum period and boosting them to start postpartum family planning as early as possible. However, for a better improvement in reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality as it concerns family planning, the researcher made some recommendations and contributions to knowledge.

Perineal management: Confidence and educational needs among midwives in selected health facilities in Mityana district, Uganda

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed at assessing the midwives' confidence and educational needs on perineal management in selected health facilities in Mityana district, Uganda. A descriptive cross-sectional study and it involved qualitative and quantitative data collection method. Midwives who assist with deliveries in the labour ward of Mityana hospital and selected health centre III's and IV's present during the time of study and willingly accepted to participate in the study. Self-administered and semi-structured questionnaire with both closed and open-ended questions developed. The level of confidence at perineal management and managing vaginal deliveries is directly influenced by level of education attained by the midwife. From the study findings, midwives who had attained a degree in midwifery expressed more confidence at perineal management and vaginal deliveries than those with a diploma and certificate in midwifery. Study findings also showed that midwives with the least time of exposure (work experience, those with fewer than a year of working experience expressed low levels of confidence towards perineal management and vaginal deliveries. The findings from this study demonstrate that midwives crave for additional educational opportunities in perineal management, especially, in prevention strategies. They demanded the up-to-date evidence and best practice recommendations to provide guidance to midwifery perineal management. This shows that the midwives' were enthusiastic for continuous evaluation of their practices and commitments to life-long learning. It is therefore anticipated that midwives tailored educational programme that will not only improve clinical skills and perineal protection techniques but also confidence in decision making be established to meet midwifery needs. Findings to this study will in conjunction with other emerging evidences contribute to the updating of the current perineal management education programme

Comparing knowledge, attitude and practice of midwives on islamic rules of maternity care in Jalingo Local Government Area.

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ABSTRACT

The overall purpose of this dissertation is to compare Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of midwives on Islamic rules of maternity care in Jalingo LGA, Taraba state, Nigeria. Maternity care which is supposed to be safe and favourable in all the 3 tiers of health care systems in Nigeria unfortunately, is still a mirage; this may be due to poor knowledge, attitudes and practice of Islamic rules of maternity care and 374 ethnic groups. Contemporary Literature so far confirms that spirituality; traditional views and practices associated with Islamic rules of maternity care cannot be disconnected from pregnancy, childbirth (labour) and the post-partum period. Therefore, providing high-quality care to Muslim patients requires knowledge and understanding of global Islamic perspectives. The rules of Islamic maternity care include: early marriage and forced marriage, nutritional taboos, the will of Allah, Quran texts used in labor, cutting the umbilical cord with non-sterilized objects by "wanzami", mutilation female genitalia, privacy and confidentiality, and Purdah (female recluse). The study addressed three objectives; the KAP and tested three hypotheses. Use a descriptive comparative, cross-sectional survey design, multi-stage and simple random sampling techniques. The population for dissertation consisted of two (2) selected hospitals and twenty-six (26) phccs and a sample size of 405 midwives. 0.80 Cronbach's α reliable self-structured questionnaires for data collection. The study enrolled 364 participants. $P < 0.05$, T-Test and ANOVA were used to perform descriptive statistics and association. Average age was 20-60yrs with mean score of 36.10 and standard deviation of 8.209. Married (77.5%), female (75.3%), Muslims (65.7%) Hausa/fulanis (45.6%) RN/RM/BNSc 30.2/23.5% reported majority. Comparatively Phccs (49.2%) and hospitals (50.9%). No statistically significant difference between Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices on Islamic maternal care rules (0.5) 6.4) $p = 0.915$ which are all high compare to α significance level of $P < 0.05$. The decision rule was that all H_0 's hypothesis accepted. Researcher concluded that multi-cultural-ethno-religiosity, practices and perceptions concerning maternity care has posed many influences hence, the needs of High quality/evidence-based care by the midwives.

Keywords: Comparing, K.A.P, Midwives, Islamic Rules and Maternity Care.

Knowledge and attitude of nurses and midwives in armed forces medical facilities towards ethico-legal standard of patients' rights

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ABSTRACT

The study evaluated the various attitude and knowledge of nurses and midwives in Armed forces medical facilities towards ethico legal standard patient bill of rights. Relevant literatures and concepts relating to the study were reviewed. For the purpose of this study, four objectives of study which metamorphosed into two research questions and two hypothesis were drawn to guide the study. The study made use of primary and secondary sources of data in eliciting the required information needed for this research. The population for this study is 472 nurses and midwives from which 216 were randomly drawn to constitute the sample size. The findings of the study revealed that nurses and Midwives working at Armed Forces Medical Hospitals have a good knowledge of Ethico-Legal Standard of Patients' Bill of Right, and also have a good understanding the Bill of Right; nurses and Midwives working at Armed Forces Medical Hospitals possess a good and working attitude towards the Ethico-Legal Standard of Patients' Bill of Right; Nurses and Midwives working at Armed Forces Medical Hospitals practice all the tenets of the Ethico-Legal Standard of Patients' Bill of Right; There is a strong and positive relationship between level of knowledge and level of practice of Ethico-Legal Standard of Patients' Bill of Right among Nurses, and midwives in the Armed Forces Medical Hospitals. Researcher thus recommended that: There should be continuous training, workshop, and seminars that aims to add, refresh and update the knowledge of the nurses and midwives in all the military hospitals; There should periodic appraisal by the military to determine the practice of the nurses and midwives to all the tenets of the Patients' Bill of Right.

Knowledge, attitude of parents, health workers and teenagers in the prevention of female genital cutting in Aba, Abia State

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ABSTRACT

The knowledge on prevention of female genital cutting among parents, health workers and female teenagers in Aba, was motivated by several reports of numerous health problems arising from the practice in the locality. The aim of the study was to explore the prevention practices for female genital cutting among parents, health workers and female teenagers in Aba, four specific objectives were set among which were to explore the knowledge of parents in Aba on the complications of female genital cutting and to explore the measures taken by parents to stop the practice of FGC. Being a qualitative study, to investigate the role of health workers in abating the practice of Female Genital Cutting and to investigate the perception of female teenagers on the practice of Female Genital Cutting, in-depth interviews were used to obtain data from thirty purposively selected respondents representing the groups; parents, health workers and female teenagers respectively. Voice recording of the interviews was done as well as hand written records. The responses were transcribed and analyzed using thematic content analysis. The results show that parents do not present their female children for Female Genital Cutting as a measure to stop the practice, the health workers on their part advocated awareness through Health Education to abate the practice while the female teenagers believe Female Genital Cutting is an evil practice that should be stopped but unfortunately none of the stakeholders was outspoken on their efforts to stop the practice. These results were discussed, recommendations made to the effect that effective health education and counseling should be carried out by health workers, the health workers should be exposed and their capacity built through seminars, workshops and symposia, parents need to be advised through awareness programmers to stop the practice on their daughters and the National Council on Health should declare the practice abolished in Nigeria. Suggestions for further studies on the same topic but in different geographical area were made.

Comparative evaluation of midwife-led and obstetrician-led care of women with low-risk pregnancies in tertiary hospital in Rivers State

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ABSTRACT

This study was focused on the comparative evaluation of midwife-led care and obstetrician-led care of women with low risk pregnancies in tertiary hospital in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Three objectives, three research questions and three hypotheses were stated to guide the study. Literature review was done under conceptual framework, theoretical framework and empirical review. The study design used in this study was descriptive-comparative research design with a study population which consisted of one thousand, seven hundred and eleven (1,711) women. A sample size of 300 was selected using a purposive sampling technique. The instrument for data collection in this study was a structured questionnaire constructed by the researcher through a thorough literature search. The statistical analysis was done using percentage. The finding of the study showed that, as concerning the antenatal care of women, finding shows that (82.9%) booked early for antenatal service, (89.5%) respondents had antenatal check-up up to four times out of which 121 had ultrasound examination and (73.1%) were given diet advice while (75.3%) respondents were given advice on exercise. Also, for the perinatal women, (72%) of them had vaginal delivery among which (45.1%) were positioned in an upright manner during birth and 209 (76%) had good intrapartum pain management. Lastly, for the postnatal women, (77.1%) breastfed their neonate before being discharged, (89.8%) of the women had confidence and were also satisfied with the care they received. (82.9%), (89.1%) and 244 (88.7%) women were educated on health matters such as postnatal exercise, immunization and personal hygiene respectively. It was recommended that, the hospital management should help to make midwife-led care of women for low risk pregnancies more effective by keeping the midwives abreast on current midwife-led care by organizing seminars for them at regular intervals.

**Evaluation of renal function in pregnant women with and without malaria in university of
Port Harcourt teaching hospital, rivers state.
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ABSTRACT

Malaria continues to be a problem in Sub-Saharan African countries. Malaria is a major concern for most pregnant women since it lowers their immunity and poses a risk to the mother's life as well as the possibility of transfer to the fetus. The goal of this study is to assess renal function in malaria-affected pregnant women. The 120 pregnant women who attended antenatal clinic at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (main site) and the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital Primary Health Centre were recruited using a case-control study design (60 women with gestational malaria and 60 healthy pregnant women at the study centre) at Umuoko, Aluu within every four to six months using convenient non-probability sampling method. The respondents' socio-demographic information, medical and obstetric histories were collected, and they were tested for malaria parasite infection and subsequent kidney biochemical markers (urea, creatinine, sodium, potassium, chlorine, and bicarbonate) using conventional laboratory techniques. The levels of urea and creatinine were found to be significantly lower ($p < 0.000$ and $p < 0.000$, respectively) in this investigation. Electrolytes (sodium, chloride, potassium, and bicarbonate) in malaria-positive pregnant women, on the other hand, were within normal limits for adult females and pregnant women. As a result, the current study found that malaria has no significant influence on renal biochemical parameters, particularly at the specified levels of urea and creatinine, indicating that there is no risk factor associated with malaria infection. However, pregnant women who present to hospitals with malaria should have their renal function checked.

**Assessment of planning practices among midwife managers in healthcare facilities in
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ABSTRACT

The susceptibility to ill health increases daily as a result of social and economic crises. Women and children are mostly affected with increased rate of morbidity and mortality. Midwife managers have major roles to play in providing high quality care to these patients. Therefore, midwife managers have to engage in effective planning in order to be competent and effective. The aim of the study is to assess the planning practices among midwife managers. A Descriptive quantitative design was used for the study. Systematic sampling technique was used to select 180 respondents from two hospitals. A semi-structured questionnaire of Likert scale was used to elicit information from the respondents. Data were analyzed using statistical package for social science and were presented in distribution and percentage tables. It was discovered that majority of the midwife managers were female, within the age bracket of 31-40years and were in the antenatal ward. 35.56% of the midwife managers practiced strategic planning while contingency type of planning was least practiced (17.22%). 47.22% of the midwife managers had in-dept knowledge of planning practices and engage in weekly plan. The researcher observed that the extent to which midwife managers engage in planning practices depends on how much they know about the concept. Midwife managers are essential stakeholders in providing evidence -based practice and so should engage in effective planning. It is recommended that midwife managers should be empowered to improve their planning practices by training, workshops and mentorship.

Job satisfaction among male midwives during clinical practice in Rivers State
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ABSTRACT

The study investigated job satisfaction among male midwives during clinical practice in Rivers state. The cross-sectional descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. Four research questions were answered while four hypotheses were tested. The population of the study comprised 394 male midwives in primary healthcare centres across the 23 Local Government Area in Rivers state, Nigeria. The sample of the study was purposively selected. The study adopt a self-structured instrument of a 4-Likert scale questionnaire for data collection. Face and content validities were ensured by experts including the researcher's supervisors. The reliability coefficient of the instrument was calculated to be 0.79 with the help of Pearson Product Moment Correlation. The research questions were answered using mean and standard deviation. While the null hypotheses were tested using inferential statistics at 0.05 alpha level. Findings revealed a low extent of job satisfaction among the male midwives. It was concluded that, It is possible to meet the target of having sufficient number of midwives, especially male midwives in the profession of healthcare when extent of: available facility; fringe benefits; recognition and capacity development programmes are looked into by major stakeholders in primary healthcare service delivery across the 23 Local Government Areas of Rivers state, Nigeria. It was therefore recommended that clinical practice of male midwives should be enhanced.

Assessment of nitrate fermenting bacteria in various trimesters of pregnant women attending the antenatal clinic in obio cottage hospital

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ABSTRACT

The overall purpose of this dissertation is to assess the presence of nitrate fermenting bacteria in various trimesters of pregnancy. A cross-sectional laboratory test to detect nitrite in mid-stream urine samples was done among 406 pregnant women amid the ages of 18 and 54 years. Many women at some point in their lives aspire to become pregnant with the expectation of a healthy baby and an uncomplicated delivery. Although the female genital anatomical structure can increase their risk of ascending infection, the body's susceptibility to certain infections and severity of existing infections is further increased when pregnant. Laboratory testing was done with a dipstick containing a reagent that reacts with nitrites to produce a pink colour, thus suggesting the presence of bacteria that converts Nitrate to Nitrite (Nitrate fermenting bacteria). Further investigation using appropriate media was done to isolate the actual Nitrate fermenters. Nitrate Combur10-Test M-strip was utilized in accordance to the manufacturer's guidelines. The prevalence of nitrate fermenters in the study population is 7% (29/406). Those positive for nitrate fermenters were 7.14% (29), glucose, 0.25% (1), and protein, 3.69% (15). Bacteria identified were significantly higher in Heavy *E. coli*, 55.17% (16), followed by Moderate *E. coli*, 27.59% (8), and Scanty *E. coli*, 17.24% (5). Positive Nitrate fermenters in the urine for the first trimester was 9.03% (13), the second trimester was 8.89% (12), and the third trimester was 3.15% (4). The association between the prevalence of nitrite fermenters in the urine and the various trimesters of pregnant women did not show any statistical significant difference ($p = 0.108$). Scanty *E. coli* for the first trimester was 15.38% (2), for the second trimester was 38.46% (5) and for the third trimester was 46.15% (6). Moderate growth *E. coli* for the first trimester was 16.67% (2), for the second trimester was 16.67% (2) and for the third trimester was 66.67% (8). Heavy growth *E. coli* for the first trimester was 46.15% (6), the second trimester was 66.67% (8), and for the third trimester was 50.0% (2). The association between the prevalence of nitrate fermenting bacteria in the urine and the various trimesters of pregnant women did not also show any statistical significant difference ($p = 0.186$). The prevalence of nitrite fermenters was observed to decline from first to third trimester among the women (9.0% - 3.2%). A scanty growth of the nitrate fermenters was mostly common among women in their third trimester in comparison to second and first trimester respectively. This study revealed that the first trimester of pregnancy is a high-risk window for the colonization of nitrate fermenting uropathogens.

Perception, acceptance of caesarean section and barriers among pregnant women attending obio cottage hospital Port Harcourt, Rivers State

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ABSTRACT

The reason for a caesarean section is broad, and it is intended to save the lives of women and infants who are in danger. The perception, acceptability of caesarean section and barriers among pregnant women visiting Obio Cottage Hospital in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, was investigated using a mixed method approach. The research utilized a total of 302 people; the quantitative approach used a self-structured questionnaire to collect data from expectant women, with a response rate of 296 (99.3%), and six key informants participated in a semi-structured interview in the qualitative approach. At a 5% significance level, data was examined using descriptive and inferential statistics. Findings showed that two-thirds (59.1%) of the respondents are 21 – 30years age bracket, 279(94.3%) married, 221(74.7%) have tertiary education, and 290(98.0%) practice Christianity. Prevalence of caesarean section was 14.5%. Majority 247(83.4%) had good perception of caesarean section. 249(84.1%) of the respondents would accept caesarean section if indicated. There was no statistically significant association between perception and acceptance of caesarean section ($\chi^2 = 1.898$, $p = 0.168$). Logistic regression revealed; husband consent ($p = 0.000$), lack of information ($p = 0.035$), fear of severe complication from C/S ($p = 0.08$) were statistically significant. Thematic report revealed that health professionals have a positive outlook towards caesarean section delivery and reported commonly perceived barriers to acceptance of caesarean section are myths/false information, ignorance, cultural and religious beliefs and financial constraints. It is recommended that midwives should provide ANC teachings on the indications and benefits of caesarean-section delivery.

Keywords: Perception, Pregnant women, Acceptance, Caesarean section

Nutrient and heavy metal composition of the breast milk of postpartum women attending postnatal clinic in hospitals in Aba, Abia State

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ABSTRACT

Breast milk is a unique bio-fluid nutrition for babies. It varies with many maternal variables including food, nutrition and health. This research examined the content of nutrients and heavy metals of the breast milk of postpartum mothers in chosen clinics and hospitals in Aba, Abia State. Three research objectives have been suggested. All measures and analysis were performed at two locations and samples were determined for their mean and standard deviation. Proximate analysis of the human breast milk was done. Protein content was measured using Kjeldahl method, carbohydrate by Clegg anthrone method, lipid by Soxhlet extraction method, ash by furnace method at a temperature of 630^o for three hours. The protein concentration of the breast milk of the women in the study were between the levels of 1.24 – 3.41%, with mean level of 2.23 ± 0.16%. The result showed that the lipid concentrations were between the levels of 0.35-4.38% having a mean level of 1.65± 1.30%. The ash concentration varied between 0.8 and 0.87 with a mean level of 0.45± 0.21%. The carbohydrate levels in the sampled breast milk ranged between 2.78 -7.08%. It has a mean value of 5.22 ± 1.27%; the moisture content of the breast milk were in the range of 85.89 – 91.10% with a mean level of 88.65 ± 1.66%. Zinc (Zn) was present in all the breast milk samples. The levels of the heavy metals lead, cadmium and mercury were found below the limit of detection. The analysis of human breast milk shows that it is a complex matrix, the mean moisture content is in line with the standards (88,1%) for mature milk (FAO/WHO 2004); while the fat and carbohydrate content respectively provide 50% and 40% of the total energy of the milk (Martin et al 2016). The study showed that there was threat of heavy metal contamination in some of the breast milk samples. Since human breast milk is very essential for the infants, the researcher suggests that the diet, the nutrition and environment of the lactating mother be given adequate attention because of their influence on the breast milk, then the baby.

Husbands' involvement in the ante natal health care of their pregnant wives in teaching hospitals in Rivers State

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated husbands' involvement in ante natal health care of their pregnant wives in teaching hospitals in Rivers State. This study adopted the descriptive survey design with a study population estimated to be 1,500 husbands of pregnant women attending ante natal clinic in the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital and Rivers State University Teaching Hospital. A sample size of 209 was selected using the purposive sampling method. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire, the validity of the instrument was ensured while reliability was ascertained using test-retest method which yielded a reliability index of 0.81, data were analyzed using descriptive statistics of percentage, mean, standard deviation while inferential statistics used was the z-test at 0.05 level of significance. The influence included the following: it gives encouragement to the wives to use the available services more adequately, women utilize the ante natal care services better, wives keeping to their ante natal schedule, better understanding of the health care needs of pregnant wives, and promotion of mutual responsibility to the unborn baby. The study recommended among others that health care workers should encourage husbands to be involved in ante natal by showing a preferential treatment to them whenever they accompany their wives to ante natal health care clinics.

Heavy metals concentration in the blood of post partum women attending primary health centres in obio akpor Rivers State

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ABSTRACT

Heavy metals toxicity is an issue of public health concern. Extensive application of heavy metals to various industries may account for this rise. Mercury, Lead and Cadmium are heavy metals that have been reported by various literature to exert harmful effects to the general population and to mother and child in particular. This study aims to determine the level of Mercury (Hg), Lead (Pb) and Cadmium (Cd) in the blood of postpartum women. This research was a cross sectional study carried out in primary health Centres in Obio akpor, Rivers State Nigeria. Fifty mothers were sampled. Blood was obtained at delivery and analyzed using Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry. The key parameters measured were maternal concentration of Mercury (Hg), Lead (Pb) and Cadmium (Cd). Demographic and obstetric factors taken were maternal age, smoking status and gestational age. For the baby, parameters measured included birth weight, head circumference and length. The finding of the study showed that the concentration of mercury (Hg) was $1.8200\text{mg/L} \pm 0.9833$; the concentration of Lead (Pb) was $3.2800\text{mg/L} \pm 1.2784$ and the concentration of Cadmium (Cd) was $2.7000\text{ mg/L} \pm 1.2657$. These levels are beyond permissible limits. The result shows that there exists a significant relationship between the plasma levels of Cadmium (Cd) in the blood of post partum women at delivery and birth weight of newborn ($X^2 = 10.566$, $df = 16$, $p = 0.835$). In conclusion, pregnant women in this region of the country are exposed to heavy metals at high levels.

Key words: Heavy Metals, Mercury, Lead, Cadmium.

**Prevalence of clinical and biochemical pregnancy among invitro fertilization clients at the
university of Port Harcourt teaching hospital
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ABSTRACT

This study investigated on the prevalence of clinical and biochemical pregnancy among Invitro fertilization clients at the University of Port-Harcourt Teaching Hospital. The research adopted retrospective design. Research questions were formulated accordingly based on the objectives to be achieved in order to guide the study. The health belief model was used as the theoretical frame work for the study. The sample size used for the study was 171 which comprises of all women who had undergone either one or multiple IVF process at the university of Port Harcourt teaching hospital from 2018-2020. Data extraction forms/checklist was used to collect data for the study. Data collected were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Findings from the study revealed that the prevalence of clinical pregnancy among women who had undergone Invitro fertilization at the University of Port-Harcourt Teaching Hospital is 30% in 2018, 2019 and 2020. The prevalence of biochemical pregnancy among women who had invitro fertilization in 2018, 2019 and 2020 is 30% respectively. The results also showed that genetic factor is the major cause of biochemical pregnancy with 41%, uterine factor 38%, Chromosomal factor 20%, implantation failure 1%. It was therefore recommended that efforts should be made to define the aetiology of Recurrent Biochemical Pregnancy (RBP), particularly for infertile couples so that possible management strategies should be offered. Further research should be carried out in other ART centre especially the private clinics. Relevant information on IVF with its related review was ascertained as contribution to knowledge.

Knowledge, attitude and practice on preventing iron deficiency anaemia among antenatal clients in tertiary hospital in Port Harcourt

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ABSTRACT

This study assessed the Knowledge, Attitude and Practice on Preventing Iron Deficiency Anaemia among Antenatal Clients in Tertiary Hospital in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. Four objectives, four research questions and three hypotheses were stated to guide the study. A cross-sectional study design was employed with a study population which consisted of pregnant women attending antenatal care in (UPTH). A sample size of 175 was selected using simple random sampling method. A structured questionnaire was used for data collection and data was analysed using statistical tools such as percentage and chi-square at 0.05 alpha level. The result of the study showed that, 125(76.7%) of the respondents had high level of knowledge about iron deficiency anaemia while 38(23.3%) had poor knowledge. The result showed that the grand mean of 2.73 ± 0.35 was greater than the criterion means of 2.50 indicating that overall, the respondents had positive attitude towards the prevention of iron deficiency anaemia. The most frequent anaemia preventive practice was eating of green vegetables like uGu (pumpkin) leaves, water melon and cabbage. The prevention of iron deficiency anaemia was related to the knowledge (X^2 -value = 125.56, do = 1, p-value = 0.00) and practice (X^2 -value = 139.17, df = 1, p-value = 0.00) of pregnant women towards anaemia. The study recommended among others that, health talk on the prevention of iron deficiency anaemia should be maintained in the antenatal clinics by the health care workers.

Clients' knowledge of the legislative and religious rules of midwifery and their perceived practice of midwives in government health facilities in Port Harcourt

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated clients' knowledge of the legislative and religious rules of midwifery and the perceived practice of midwives in government health facilities in Port Harcourt Metropolis. Four (4) research questions and two hypotheses (2) guided the study which adopted descriptive survey design. The study population included 416 out of which a sample of 224 clients was selected using the multi stage sampling technique. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled "Clients Knowledge of Legislative and Religious Rules of Midwifery and the Perceived Practice of Midwives Questionnaire (CKLRRMPPMQ)" with a reliability index of 0.8 was used as the data collection instrument. Data collection was done by direct delivery and retrieval method. Data collected was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS) version 20 was used in analyzing the data. Results revealed that Out of the 224 respondents studied, 199(89.1%) were knowledgeable while 25(10.9%) were not knowledgeable about the legislative rules of midwifery; 152(67.9%) were knowledgeable about religious rules of midwifery while 72(32.1%) were not; 14(6.3%) perceived that legislative rules of midwifery is not practiced by midwives, 139(62.0%) perceive that the rules are practiced to a low extent, 45(20.0%) perceived the extent to which midwives practice legislative rules of midwifery as moderate while 26(12.0%) perceived that midwives practice the legislative rules of midwifery to a high extent. 147(66.0%) perceive that the rules are practiced to a low extent. The p-value of 0.212 at df of 6 and X^2 of 9.272 shows that there is no there is no significant difference in the knowledge of the legislative and religious rules of midwifery among clients based on their education and age. The study concluded that most client perceived poor practice of legislative and religious rules of midwifery. Based on the study findings, it was recommended that Midwives should as much as possible provide care to clients in line with specified legislative and religious guidelines.

**Heavy metals concentration in the breast milk of HIV and diabetic postpartum mothers in
Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, Nigeria
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ABSTRACT

Background: Breast milk is considered to be the best substance for neonatal nutrition. It is not well known whether HIV and Diabetes increases the expression of toxic heavy metals in breastmilk in postpartum mothers. This study compared the concentration of toxic heavy metals in breastmilk between healthy (reference group), HIV, and Diabetes postpartum mothers (exposed groups) in Yenagoa. **Material and methods:** A cross-sectional design was utilized on a purposive sample of 216 postpartum mothers (72 each of the HIV, Diabetes, and Reference groups). Breastmilk samples were collected at 5-6 weeks postpartum. Sampling took place from 1st November 2020 to 30th April, 2021. A Spectrophotometer was used, data were collected with a checklist and analysed at a 5% significance level. **Results:** There was high levels above the WHO permissible limits of Arsenic (65.3%), Lead (88.9%), Mercury (79.2%), and Cadmium (84.7) for the HIV group at the mean concentrations of 0.6 vs. 0.0 ng/ml (Arsenic), 15.5 vs. 5.0 ng/ml (Lead), 3.4 vs. 1.7 ng/ml (Mercury), and 3.1 vs. 1.0 ng/ml (Cadmium). The Diabetes group had high levels of Arsenic (63.9%), Lead (95.8%), Mercury (68.1%), and Cadmium (84.7) at the mean concentrations of 0.6 ng/ml (Arsenic), 13.2 ng/ml (Lead), 2.9 ng/ml (Mercury), and 3.3 ng/ml (Cadmium). The reference group had high levels of Arsenic (62.5%), Lead (95.8%), Mercury (72.2%), and Cadmium (86.1) at the mean concentrations of 0.6 ng/ml (Arsenic), 12.2 ng/ml (Lead), 3.0 ng/ml (Mercury), and 3.2 ng/ml (Cadmium). There was no significant difference in the level of toxic heavy metals in breastmilk between the HIV group and the Reference (p-value = 0.117-0.813) and between the Diabetes group and Reference (p-value = 0.585-1.000). **Conclusions:** The participants had high levels of toxic heavy metals in their breastmilk that did not differ by disease status. More maternal health-related toxicology studies are needed to confirm these findings.

Lived experience of challenges and nursing intervention for couples after failed in-vitro fertilization cycle at the comforters place Gaduwa estate, Abuja

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ABSTRACT

This study is a qualitative descriptive survey that intended to determine lived experience of challenges faced by couples after failed in-vitro fertilization (IVF) cycle at the Comforters Place Gaduwa Estate, Abuja. Infertility is psychologically threatening, emotionally stressful, maritally challenging, and economically expensive and often physically a complex painful life crisis. The study was limited to 15 couples with infertility issues that had undergone for the IVF treatment before but the result came back negative at Comforters Place Gaduwa Estate, Abuja. Relevant literatures were reviewed based on the objectives and research question of the research study. The Sample size was 15 couples who accepted to be interviewed for the study. Instrument for data collection was a Face to Face in depth interview of the 15 couples that returned for repeat IVF treatment within the study period. The data generated were coded based on similarity and difference in the response of the couples. Results were presented in tables using themes and sub-themes. Results from the study shows that most of the participants were between the ages of 31-40 years, at the couples faced different challenges such as disappointment, depression and sadness as a result of the failed IVF treatment and the majority of the couple said they were disappointed. The result also disclosed that nursing intervention reduced the challenges experienced such as counselling session for encouragement. And lastly all the couples agreed that they came back for another IVF treatment because of their desire to have children and have them running round the house. Based on the findings of the study it was recommended that to minimize stress on couples in their future plans about IVF treatment, both physicians and counsellors must inform and educate the couples on success rates for IVF treatment options including the effect of the couple's background such as diagnosis and age, time of treatment, and termination of treatment.

Midwives attitude towards Nigeria population policy and family planning in primary healthcare facilities in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area, Rivers State

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated midwives' attitude towards Nigerian Population policy and family planning in primary health care facilities in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State. Four (4) research questions and two (2) hypotheses guided the study which adopted descriptive survey design. The population included 175 midwives out of which 138 were selected as sample using the multi stage sampling technique. A structured questionnaire titled "Midwives Attitude towards the Nigeria Population Policy Questionnaire" was used as the data collection instrument. The instrument was validated and the reliability was done using Cronbach alfa which yielded a reliability index of 0.82. Data collection was done using direct delivery and retrieval method. The entire 138 questionnaires were retrieved indicating 100% return rate. Data analysis was done using descriptive and inferential statistics and the Statistical Product and Service Solution version 20 was utilized in the analytical process. Descriptive statistical approach included frequencies, percentages and mean while chi-square test of fitness was used to for hypotheses test. Results revealed that out of the 138 respondents studied, 30(21.7%) had positive attitude while 78.3% had negative attitude towards the Nigeria population policy; 120(87.0%) had positive attitude while 18(13.0%) had negative attitude towards family planning; the major factors influencing the attitude of midwives towards family planning include personal values, multiparity, marital status and personal belief; out of the 138 respondents studied, 5(3.6%) had poor knowledge, 24(17.4%) had fair knowledge while 109(79.0%) had good knowledge about family planning; there is no significant difference in the attitude of midwives towards the Nigerian Population policy based on years of service and marital status ($p=0.117$ at $df=2$ and $X^2=5.366$; $p=0.100$ at df of 2 and $X^2=5.992$). The study concluded that majority of the midwives had positive attitude towards family planning and negative attitude towards Nigeria population policy. Based on the study findings, it was recommended that midwives should be encouraged to develop positive attitude towards the Nigeria population policy.

Pattern and practice of antenatal and postnatal exercises among women attending antenatal and postnatal clinics in two tertiary health institutions in Port Harcourt metropolis.

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated pattern and practice of antenatal and postnatal exercises among women attending antenatal and postnatal clinics in two tertiary health institutions in Port Harcourt metropolis. The cross-sectional descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. Four research questions were answered while two hypotheses were tested. The population of the study comprised 2186 women registered and attending clinics in the two tertiary health institutions in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers state. A sample size of 394 was selected using a two-stage sampling of proportionate and stratified random sampling technique through Fischer's sample size determination. The study adopted a self-structured instrument of multiple scale questionnaire for data collection. Face and content validities were ensured by experts including the researcher's supervisor. The reliability coefficient of the instrument was calculated to be 0.75 with the help of Pearson Product Moment Correlation. The research questions were answered using mean and standard deviation. While the null hypotheses were tested using inferential statistics at 0.05 alpha level. Findings revealed a very minimal extent of the practice of antenatal/postnatal exercises among women attending postnatal clinics in two tertiary health institutions in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers state, Nigeria. It was concluded that, most women in their antenatal or postnatal periods rely on self-prescription or family and friends in engaging in exercise, this may portend serious health danger in the long run. It was therefore recommended that well trained community health workers should be deployed to towns across Rivers state for health talks on the relevance of medically prescribed antenatal and post-natal exercise.

**Assessment of thyroid hormone levels among pregnant women in government hospitals in
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ABSTRACT

This study assessed the thyroid hormone levels among pregnant women in government hospitals in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State. Three (3) research objectives and questions guided the study which adopted descriptive survey design. The population of this study consisted of 422 antenatal mothers out of which samples of 126 representing were selected using the purposive sampling technique. The instruments for data collection were a structure questionnaire on the maternal characteristics of the study participant and serum blood samples of the antenatal mothers. Data collection was done with the help of a research assistant over a period of two weeks on alternate antenatal clinic days. Descriptive and inferential statistical methods were employed in the analytical process. The Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS) version 22 was employed in data analysis. Results revealed that in the 1st trimester, FT3 and FT4 increased significantly compared with the values in the 2nd and 3rd trimesters of Pregnancy. However, the TSH values reduced to a significant level with increasing trimesters of pregnancy. The 2nd and 3rd trimester FT3 and FT4 values were with normal ranges. There are high levels of serum hCG levels in the 1st trimester of pregnancy when compared with other trimesters of pregnancy, the FT3 and FT4 levels were also elevated in the 1st trimester of pregnancy while the TSH levels significantly decreased. There is a significant difference in the thyroid stimulating hormones level in the first, second and third trimesters of pregnancy based on age ($P < 0.05$). The study concluded that pregnant women experience elevated thyroid hormone levels during the first trimester of pregnancy due to the activities of human chorionic gonadotrophic hormones. Based on the study findings, there is the need for close monitoring of maternal health status with particular regards to thyroid and overall metabolic functions in women.

**Use of partograph among midwives working in Rivers State university teaching hospital,
Port Harcourt, Nigeria**

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ABSTRACT

Partograph is a graph for monitoring and recording the progress of labour, woman and fetal wellbeing plotted against time. The study aim was to explore the use of partograph among midwives working in Rivers State University Teaching Hospital (RSUTH), Port-Harcourt, Nigeria. The study was conducted at the labour ward of RSUTH, Port Harcourt. The institution was formed in March 1925 as Braithwaite Memorial Specialist Hospital and became a Teaching Hospital in the year 2018 following the institution of Medical College in the State University. The study adopted a phenomenological qualitative design. The study population was every registered midwife practicing in the labour unit of RSUTH. Purposive sampling method was used. Semi structured interview was used to interview six midwives in a focused group discussion and ten midwives for in-depth interview until data saturation was reached. Interviews were audiotape and field notes taken. Then all the interviews were translated verbatim, coded and five themes emerged from the findings which include; Significance of partograph, Presentation of Labour, Expression of viewpoints, Manpower Shortage and Update partograph use. Midwives reported using the partograph and that its use was necessary for monitoring of labour. In spite of the benefits, the participants did not use it effectively due to increased workload, poor knowledge and shortage of staff leading to missed opportunity to promptly identify abnormal progress of labour. Thus, there is need to improve manpower as well as retrain midwives on the use of partograph.

Keywords: Exploration, Use, Partograph, Competence, Midwives, Working.

Patterns and predictors of intimate partner violence among pregnant women attending healthcare centres in Obio/Akpor, Rivers State

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ABSTRACT

Intimate partner violence though not consistent with our cultural and traditional values and beliefs as a people, is becoming rampant and this is a misnomer. Intimate partner violence (IPV) especially among women is a global phenomenon and has become a major public health concern. The researcher adopted a descriptive cross-sectional study design to assess patterns and predictors of intimate partner violence among pregnant mothers attending healthcare centres in ObioAkpor L.G.A., Rivers state. A self-structured survey was utilized to gather information from 416 systematically selected pregnant mothers with a response rate of 412(99%). Data was evaluated utilizing descriptive and inferential statistics at 5% degree of significance. Findings showed that many of the respondents ages 23 – 31years, married, with tertiary education, of Christian faith, were into business and have two children. The prevalence of IPV before pregnancy was 21.4% while in current pregnancy was 20.1%.The most common violence act was physical 83(20.1%), followed by verbal violence 79(19.2%), emotional violence accounted for 76(18.4%), psychological violence 68(16.5%) while the least reported was sexual violence with about 57(13.8%). Domestic and financial issues were the cause of most violent experience accounting for 19.9% and 19.4%. Statistical analysis using multinomial logistic regression showed that educational attainment (p ; 0.000) and lifestyle of husband ($p = 0.000$) was the socioeconomic and sociodemographic factors respectively associated with IPV. It is recommended that screening for intimate partner violence among pregnant women should be provided as a uniform care during antenatal visits.

Keywords: Patterns, Pregnant women, Predictors, Intimate partner violence

**Nutrient and heavy metal composition of breast milk among HIV positive post-natal mothers attending university of Port Harcourt teaching hospital
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ABSTRACT

This study investigated nutrient and heavy metal composition of breast milk among HIV positive post-natal mothers attending University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH). Four (4) specific objectives and research questions as well as two (2) hypotheses which adopted the descriptive cross sectional survey design guided the study. The study population consisted of 57 HIV positive post-natal mothers in attendance at the UPTH at the time of conducting the study and this also constituted the study sample. The census sampling technique was employed in the study population was too small. Breast milk samples of post-natal mothers and a structured questionnaire on the socio demographic data of the women was used. Breast milk samples were analysed for nutritional and heavy metal composition. The Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS) version 22 was used in the data analysis. Results revealed that the nutrient concentration of breast milk of HIV positive mothers with term babies ranged between 1.38 to 36.85% with a mean of $17.82 \pm 1.11\%$ (fat), 9.45 to 19.94% with a mean of $15.74 \pm 0.29\%$ (protein), 19.62 to 60.67 % with a mean of $32.84 \pm 1.43\%$ (carbohydrate). The findings also show that the nutrient concentration of breast milk of HIV positive mothers with preterm babies ranged between 1.22 to 28.49 % with a mean of $15.66 \pm 0.94\%$ (fat), 8.77 to 17.61 % with a mean of $15.22 \pm 0.32\%$ (protein) and 18.71 to 61.64% with a mean of $31.90 \pm 1.09\%$ (carbohydrate). The study concluded that there is an increase in the fat, protein and carbohydrate composition of breast milk of HIV positive post-natal mothers of term and preterm infants; the heavy metal concentration of breast milk of HIV positive post-natal mothers of term and preterm infants decreased against the reference range. The nutrient and heavy metal composition of breast milk of HIV positive post-natal mothers of term and preterm infants does not vary significantly. Based on the study findings, it was recommended that health awareness programme on the pathway for management of mothers with HIV should be conducted by healthcare providers in communities was recommended.

**Disparity between women's expectations and experiences during childbirth at the
university of Port Harcourt teaching hospital**

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ABSTRACT

Pregnancy and delivery are a peculiar and unique process for women. Women and their families hold different expectations during childbearing based on their knowledge, experiences, social, culture, and family background. These differences are meant to be understood and respected. Care should be organised and adapted to meet the individualised needs of women and their families. The woman satisfaction is an essential factor of quality of care. Improving quality of maternal care is essential to achieving universal health coverage by the year 2030 (WHO 2016). The purpose of this project was to explore the disparity between expectations and experiences of women during childbirth. A phenomenological qualitative study with an in-dept semi-structured interview was transcribed and analysed through thematic content analysis to identify issues and concepts. Twenty-four women were recruited from the Obstetrics and Gynaecology department of the University of Port-Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Port-Harcourt. A purposive sample of 24 Participants were recruited from low-risk pregnant women and postnatal mothers who had normal delivery. Their childbirth experiences were varied with unique responses, challenges and feelings to individual mother. From the interpretative analysis of the interview transcript, four themes that emerged included Desire for safe delivery, Process of Childbirth, Providers' actions and Impact of ward milieu on labour. Women deserve high quality maternity care in order to achieve the highest level of satisfaction with childbirth process. All health care professionals who come in contact with pregnant women especially midwives, should have the capacity and capability of good interpersonal skill and cultural sensitivity to offer individualised care for optimum childbirth experience.

Keywords

Childbirth, Experiences, Labour, Postpartum, Pregnancy, Women, Qualitative study.

Nutrient and heavy metal composition of breastmilk of postpartum women in postnatal wards in selected hospitals in Yenagoa

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ABSTRACT

The continuous chemical pollution and ecological declination in the Niger Delta, occasioned by oil investigation and utilization activities have greatly contributed to the health hazards suffered by the people in the region, including mothers and their babies.

In this work, the aim is to assess the nutrient and heavy metal composition of breast milk of postpartum women in postnatal wards of selected hospitals in Yenagoa were discussed.

A laboratory-based descriptive research design was used for this study with a total of fifty four (54) human breast milk samples between 0-10 days, randomly selected from three selected tertiary hospitals in Yenagoa, in April, 2021. A quantitative method of data collection was adopted with the use of a validated structured checklist. Anthropometric assessment and breast milk specimens were collected for laboratory analysis with the use of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov Normality Test. Data were entered into statistical package for social statistics, and descriptive statistics was used to summarize data. Also, Inferential Statistics, Analysis of Variance, Chi Square and Logistic Regression were applied to examine the association and predictors of health status at $p < 0.05$ significant level. The mean age of respondents was 26.67 (± 6.58); Carbohydrate concentration ranged from 3.34% to 6.75%; Protein concentration, 1.97% to 6.29%. The only heavy metal detected in the breastmilk was Zinc with (2.18 ± 2.99 mg/kg) mean concentration, which is an essential element.

This finding suggests that there is no heavy metal in the women's breast milk contributing to neonatal morbidity or mortality.

Key words: Breast milk, Nutrient, Heavy Metal, Postpartum women