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Thesis Title	Utilization of Postnatal Care Services in a sample of women in Baghdad / Al-Karkh			
Year	2013			
Abstract	<p>Health services provided to mothers during postpartum period constitute an essential component of the package of maternal and child health services in any population. Since postnatal care services enable health care professionals to identify post-delivery problems, including potential complications, and to provide treatments promptly. Therefore, every woman in the postpartum period must have an access to good quality postnatal care to ensure her health and that of her baby.</p> <p>A cross-sectional study was conducted at 29 primary health care centers in Baghdad/Al-karkh during the period from the 1st of November 2012 to the end of March 2013 to estimate the proportion of postnatal care utilization and to determine its relation to some socio-demographic factors of woman, her husband; care-seeking behavior during pregnancy and delivery.</p> <p>A total number of 950 women their age ranged from 16-42 years who had delivered a live baby within the past 6 months prior to the study and attended the selected primary health care centers for any reason related to their health or for seeking vaccination for their children were enrolled in the study.</p> <p>A structured questionnaire form was used for data collection through direct interview.</p> <p>Analysis of data revealed that 41.9% of women utilized postnatal care after their last delivery. The educational status of woman and her husband, parity, family composition, postnatal care knowledge/awareness showed statistical significant association with postnatal care utilization.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Health problems women faced during the last pregnancy,</p>			

delivery and postnatal period seem to have a **significant association with postnatal care utilization.**

Antenatal care attendance, type and place of delivery as well as type of hospital where woman delivered her last child; showed significant influence on postnatal care utilization.

The study results showed that 345(86.7%) of women who utilized postnatal care had achieved one visit, while only five (1.3%) of them had achieved three visits. Seven (1.8%) of women received postnatal care during the first 48 hours after delivery, in comparison with 317 (79.6%) women received postnatal care within 2nd-5th week. The most mentioned reason for using postnatal care in the first visit was check-up (67.1%), and postnatal complications caused 51.9%, 60% of women to utilize postnatal care in the second and third time respectively. The results indicated that the health services and advices provided to women as part of routine postnatal care were insufficient as 59.5% of women had blood pressure measurement, 17.3% had breast examination and 55.3% had abdominal and pelvic examination. Health advices about family planning and birth spacing were the most common health advices provided to 44.7% of women and immunization for both mother and baby was provided to 33.2% of them. The most frequent postnatal care services was the woman felt well (no need for care) as stated by 240 (43.5%) of women. A good proportion of studied women have positive attitude toward postnatal care as 549 (57.8%) of women considered postnatal care is important

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