

**ASSESSMENT OF MOTHER'S ORAL HEALTH KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE
AND BEHAVIOR RELATED TO PREGNANCY IN JEDDAH CITY: A
LONGITUDINAL SURVEY.**

Safia A AL-Attas*

The study aim was to assess the oral health knowledge, attitude and behavior related to pregnancy among a group of Jeddah mothers, and to monitor the changes over the last decade.

A longitudinal survey study was carried out using a self-administered questionnaire. In 1994, 217 mothers participated in the first survey, while 528 mothers responded to the second in 2004. Most women believed that pregnancy has an effect on their oral health and it takes calcium from their teeth (60.3% vs. 72.4 % in the 1st vs. 2nd survey). More than half of the women in the first survey and third in the second had never been advised about caring for their baby's teeth during pregnancy. Physicians were the major source of oral health information in the first survey shifted to be the television in the second. The mother's opinions regarding the need of dental visit during pregnancy changed from check-up and prophylaxis to pain. During pregnancy most of the women took calcium and milk and few took fluoride (5.6% vs. 1.8% in the 1st vs. 2nd survey), but many women did not change their hygiene habits.

In conclusion, the oral health awareness among the studied group was often erroneous from the dental point of view and their attitude and behavior regarding preventive measures was not adequate. Only slight improvements happened throughout the decade.

*Assistant professor, Department of Oral Basic and Clinical sciences, King Abdulaziz University, Faculty of Dentistry, KSA