

**Factors Affecting on Utilization  
of Screening Procedures  
Among Pregnant  
Women**

*Thesis*

*Submitted for Fulfillment of Master Degree in  
Maternity and Gynecological Nursing*

*Presented By*

*Hend Eweis Saad*

Clinical instructor in Maternity and Gynecological Nursing

Faculty of Nursing, Beni Sweif University

B.Sc. Nursing (2013)

**Faculty of Nursing  
Ain Shams University  
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*Supervised by*

**Prof. Dr. Shadia Hamido**

*Professor of Maternity and Gynecological Nursing  
Faculty of Nursing, Ain Shams University*

**Prof. Dr. Nevin Samir Metwaly**

*Assistant professor of Maternity & Gynecological Nursing  
Faculty of Nursing –Ain Shams University*

**Assist. Prof. Dr. Amal Talaat Abd El Wahed**

*Assist. Prof. of Maternity & Gynecological Health Nursing  
Faculty of Nursing - Ain Shams University*

**Faculty of Nursing**

**Ain Shams University**

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*Hend Eweis Saad*

# Factors Affecting on Utilization of Screening Procedures among Pregnant Women

## Abstract

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**Background:** Screening tests early in pregnancy should be offered to help antenatal care team to provide the best possible care during pregnancy and the birth. **Aim:** This study is to assess factors affecting on utilization of screening procedures among pregnant women. **Methods:** A descriptive research design was adopted to fulfill the aim of the study and answer the research questions. **Setting:** The study was conducted at Obstetric outpatient antenatal clinics of Beni-suef University Hospital and Beni-suef General hospital. **Sample type:** Simple random sample technique was used. **Sample criteria:** A sample of pregnant women was recruited from the eligible group The sample included every pregnant women who was attending the antenatal clinics 3 days per week and fulfilling the inclusion criteria as different age group, different educational level, free from medical & surgical problem and agree to participation in the study until reaching sample size. **Results:** Regarding relation between characteristics of studied sample and their score of factors, the study revealed that were a highly significant association between educational level of women and occupation for husband with total score of factors (p. value <0.05). **Conclusion:** The present study, revealed that most of studied pregnant women had factors affecting utilization of screening procedures as social, economic, psychological, environmental factors. In addition, there is significant association between personal characteristic of pregnant women and their total score of factors that effect on utilization of screening procedures **Recommendation:** Nurses should have more positive role in raising the awareness of women about the importance of screening procedures through developing mother's class programs at maternity hospitals and preparation of health education materials for pregnant women.

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**Key words:** Factors, Screening procedures, Pregnant Women.

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## **List of Abbreviations**

<i>Abb.</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
<b>AFP</b>	Alpha- Feto Protein
<b>AFI</b>	Amniotic Fluid Index
<b>ANC</b>	Antenatal Care
<b>BPP</b>	BioPhysical Profile
<b>CVS</b>	Chorionic Vill Sampling
<b>CBC</b>	Complete Blood Count
<b>3D</b>	Three Dimensional
<b>4D</b>	Four Dimensional
<b>GBS</b>	Group B Streptococcus
<b>HCG</b>	Human Chorionic Gonadotropin
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>IgG</b>	Immunoglobulin G
<b>IUGR</b>	Intrauterine Growth Restricted
<b>LMP</b>	Last Menstrual Period
<b>MRI</b>	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
<b>NST</b>	Non -Stress Test
<b>Pap smear</b>	Papanicolaou Smear
<b>PAPP-A</b>	Pregnancy Associated Plasma Protein A
<b>Rh</b>	Rhesus Factor
<b>STIs</b>	Sexual Transmitted Infections
<b>TB</b>	Tuberculosis
<b>US</b>	Ultrasound
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

## Introduction

Pregnancy is a unique, exciting and often vital time in a woman's life. It highlights the woman's amazing creative and nurturing powers while providing a bridge to the future. Pregnancy comes with some cost, however, for a pregnant woman needs also to be a responsible woman so as to best support the health of her future child. The growing fetus depends entirely on its mother's healthy body for all needs (*Leifer, 2015*).

Consequently, pregnant women must take steps to remain as healthy and well-nourished as they possibly can. Pregnant women should take into account the many health care and lifestyle considerations (*Leifer, 2015*).

Prenatal care usually begins in the first trimester of pregnancy, when the woman is seen every 4 weeks until she reaches 28-32 weeks gestation. The appointment is changed to be every 2 weeks then occur weekly from 36 weeks of gestation until birth. Antenatal care is recognized as a major component of comprehensive maternal health care. It should include services that monitor the progress of the pregnancy to assess fetal and maternal health, offer preventive treatment such as immunization against tetanus

and advise women on a range of significant health problems (*Alio et al., 2013*).

Prenatal care is the care that a woman experiences during pregnancy, helps to ensure healthy outcomes for women and newborns. Prenatal care is realized as a major element of comprehensive maternal health care. It should include services that monitor the progress of the pregnancy to assess fetal and maternal health, offer preventive treatment such as immunization against tetanus or iron for anemia and advise women on a range of important health subjects such as identification of warning signals in pregnancy and when to seek care (*WHO, 2013*).

Screening tests are used to find people at higher risk of a health problem. This means they can get earlier potentially more effective treatment or make decisions about their health prenatal tests can offer valuable information about their health during pregnancy. They can find problems like gestational diabetes and preeclampsia (dangerously high blood pressure), which if not treated can put your baby at risk for problems like preterm birth (*Boswell, 2014*).

Tests can also tell you things about your baby's health, like whether your child has a birth defect or a chromosomal

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abnormality. Of course, no test is foolproof, results can be inaccurate, but the chances of this happening are low (*Newman, 2017*).

Early entry to antenatal care (ANC) and screening procedures are important for early detection and treatment of adverse pregnancy-related outcomes. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that pregnant women in developing countries should seek ANC within the first 4 months of pregnancy. In many developing countries, the majority of women go through pregnancy and child birth without any assistance from formally trained healthcare provider. Factors that influence a pregnant woman decision about initiating and continuing prenatal care include demographic, biological socioeconomic, psychosocial, health services, medical and environmental factors(**WHO, 2014**)

Prenatal tests which are known as care during pregnancy are essential for diagnosing and treating complications that could endanger the lives of mother and child. Most life threatening obstetric complications can be prevented through screening procedures. Moreover, there is sufficient evidence that care during pregnancy is an important opportunity to deliver interventions that will

improve maternal health and survival during the period immediately preceding birth and after birth (**WHO, 2016**).

Furthermore, if the prenatal tests are used to inform women and their families about danger signs, symptoms about the risks of labor and delivery, it may ensure that pregnant women deliver with the assistance of a skilled health care provider (**Mebai, 2015**).

Nursing role in antenatal testing varies based on the specific test. In general, it includes assessment of risk factors and providing information and emotional support and comfort to women undergoing antenatal tests. Many women having antenatal tests are at high risk for fetal and maternal complications and are anxious and vulnerable. The nurse assist or performs the antenatal test, but in some instances this requires advanced competencies (**Jacob, 2012**).

Nurse should provide appropriate support to families, nurses need to understand, the variety of tests available during pregnancy, the risks and benefits of tests, the indications for tests, the interpretation of findings, the nursing care associated with the test, the physical and psychological benefits, limitations, and implications of the test (**Jacob, 2012**)

## **Justification of the problem**

Prenatal screening is important to woman during pregnancy that helps to ensure healthy outcomes for women and newborns. Tests are realized as a major element of comprehensive maternal health care.

Screening tests are an important determinant of high maternal mortality rate and is one of the basic component of maternal care on which the life of mothers and babies depend and early detection of any abnormalities for mother or fetus can managed and controlled of its consequences. According to National center for health statistic data, this shows that women with prenatal care had an overall stillbirth rate of 2.7 per 1000 compared with 4.1per 1000 for women without prenatal care (**NCHS, 2012**).

Also, according to Egypt Demography and health survey, more than quarter of Egyptian pregnant women don't make screening procedures. However, among those who are receiving screening procedures only one third of women received advice about importance of screening procedure during pregnancy. In 2015, according World Health Organization an estimated 303, 000 women died from pregnancy-related causes, 2.7 million babies died during the first 28 days of life and 2.6 million babies were

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still born. So, increase complication during pregnancy and child birth may lead to death and disability among pregnant. This study will be carried out to assess the factors that affect mother's utilization of screening procedures.