

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN PERIOD OF GESTATION AT THE TIME OF DIAGNOSIS OF GESTATIONAL DIABETES MELLITUS AND BIRTH WEIGHT

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Objective: Determine the association between period of gestation (POG) at the time of diagnosis of gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) and birth weight. **Method:** This was a retrospective study carried out at North Colombo Teaching Hospital, Ragama, using North Colombo Obstetric Database (NORCOD) between March 2014 and May 2016. Four hundred and eleven women with GDM were included in the study. Based on the POG at the time of diagnosis of GDM they were categorized into two groups. They were, GDM diagnosed before 12 weeks of POG and GDM diagnosed after 12 weeks of POG. Babies with a birth weight less than 2500 grams were considered low birth weight (LBW) while babies with a birthweight 3500 grams were considered high birth weight (HBW) babies. Normal range (NBW) for birth weight was 2500-3500 grams. **Results:** Mean POG at diagnosis of GDM in the study population was 25.5 weeks (SD=8.45). Fifty seven women (13.9%) were diagnosed. In the 12 weeks group, corresponding values were 11.9% (N=42), 72% (N=255) and 16.1% (N=57) (P0.05). **Conclusion:** Higher birth weights were observed in babies of women who had GDM diagnosed 12 weeks. However the observed difference between the two groups was not statistically significant.