

# Screening for Gestational Diabetes Among Pregnant Women Attending a Rural Family Health Center- Menoufia Governorate- Egypt

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**Abstract:** *Objectives:* Study prevalence of gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) among pregnant females attending family health center between 24 and 28 weeks of gestation and assessment of risk factors among the studied group. *Background:* Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) is the most prevalent metabolic disorder during pregnancy. It is defined as any degree of glucose intolerance during pregnancy. It affects between 2-14% of pregnancies. Screening for (GDM) during pregnancy is highly recommended. *Material and Methods:* The study was conducted on 250 pregnant women between 24 and 28 weeks gestation who attended a rural family health center in Menoufia Governorate, Egypt. Selected participants were interviewed during their antenatal care visits using a questionnaire to assess different demographic criteria of the participants and potential risk factors for GDM. Initial screening was done by a glucose challenge test with 50 g glucose. If the 1-hour blood glucose level exceeded 130 mg/dl, then a 3-hour oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) with 100g glucose was performed and diagnosis was established. *Results:* Prevalence of GDM among the studied group was 8%. Risk factors found to be significantly associated with GDM were advancing age & BMI  $\geq 30$ , high BP  $> 140/90$ , previous history of pre-eclampsia, family history of diabetes and positive obstetric history for induced labor, abortion and large size baby. However socioeconomic status, previous history of hypertension and family history of hypertension failed to demonstrate significant associations with GDM. *Conclusion:* The prevalence of GDM was found to be 8% among pregnant females attending the studied rural family health center. Controlling risk factors and Screening for early detection are mandatory for better maternal and fetal health.

**Keywords:** Gestational Diabetes Mellitus, Prevalence, Risk Factors, Screening for GDM

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## 1. Introduction

Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) is considered to be the most prevalent metabolic disorder during pregnancy. It is defined as glucose intolerance of varying severity diagnosed during pregnancy that usually resolves postpartum. It typically occurs during the second trimester of pregnancy and is diagnosed at 24 to 28 WK of gestation with an oral glucose tolerance test [1].

Numerous epidemiological studies show that this disorder affects between 1% and 18% of pregnancies, depending on the populations studied and the diagnostic criteria. Its

incidence is constantly rising [2].

The prevalence of (GDM) among pregnant women in the united states worldwide ranges from 3% to 7%, depending on the population studied [3].

Factors that already reported to influence the risk of gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) among mothers are: previous history of gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM), family history of diabetes, obesity, recurrent urinary tract infections, infertility treatment, unexplained neonatal death, macrosomic babies, prematurity, pre-eclampsia and advanced maternal age [4].

The clinical presentation of diabetes mellitus in pregnancy

may be quite varied, but the classical triad of the symptoms of polydipsia, and polyuria may not be reported by most patients during pregnancy. The patients may present with previous history of medical complications of diabetes mellitus (chronic hypertension/chronic renal disease) and obesity [5].

International Association of diabetes and pregnancy study groups (IADPSG) based has introduced a gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) criteria in an attempt to unify the gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) criteria throughout the world. The IADPSG criteria require three samples i.e., fasting, 1 h, and 2 h after 75g glucose, whereas the WHO criteria need two samples namely the fasting and 2 h [6].

Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) is a reversible condition and women who have adequate control of glucose levels can effectively decrease the associated risks and give birth to healthy babies [7].

#### Objectives:

Study the prevalence of (GDM) among pregnant females attending to a rural family health center between 24 and 28 weeks of gestation and assessment of risk factors for (GDM) among the studied group.

## 2. Subjects and Methods

This study was carried out during the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2015 till the end of July 2016 in Monshaat sultan family health center, Menoufia governorate, Egypt. The study protocol was reviewed and formally approved by ethics committee of Faculty of Medicine, Menoufia University.

In this study, the calculated sample size was calculated using Raosoft on line sample size calculator based on the world wide prevalence of GDM (ranges from 3% to & 7%) -with relative error of 5% at level of significance of 95%- and the size of the studied population. A sample of 230 eligible subjects was required and was increased to 250 for any data loss.

All pregnant women with estimated gestational age between 24th and 28th weeks attending the selected FHC for their antenatal care visits were included in the study. All women were informed about the nature of study and those who consented were included in the study. Women who were known diabetics, or who were suffering from any chronic illness were excluded from the study.

All pregnant women included in the study were interviewed using a questionnaire that included questions to collect personal data (age, education, occupation) and determine socioeconomic standard according to the scoring system of Ibrahim and Abdel Ghaffar; after modification to suit the current socioeconomic status in Egypt. It includes education of the mother, occupation and education, family size, and income. The socioeconomic scores were as follows: high (9–12), middle (5 to <9), and low (<5).

Also it included questions to assess potential risk factors for GDM in their obstetric history, life style habits (as smoking), medical history which includes: Chronic diseases (as diabetes, hypertension) and drug intake, and previous operations. Other risk factors of the disease involving BMI before pregnancy, blood pressure measurement, previous

history of Large size baby (4 kg or more ), Pre-eclampsia, Still birth and previous history of abortions.

Initial screening was done by a glucose challenge test with 50 g glucose. If the 1-hour blood glucose level exceeded 130 mg/dl, then a 3-hour oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) with 100g glucose was performed and diagnosis was established according to American Diabetes Association criteria (Principle: Glucose is phosphorylated by ATP in the presence of Hexokinase and Mg<sup>2</sup>. The glucose-6-phosphate formed is oxidized by glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G-6-PD) to 6-phosphogluconate in the presence of nicotinamide-adenine dinucleotide (NAD<sup>+</sup>). The amount of NADH produced is directly proportional to the amount of glucose in the sample and is measured by absorbance at 340 nm) [8].

The following are the values which the American Diabetes Association considers to be abnormal during the 100 g OGTT: [Fasting plasma glucose level  $\geq$  105mg/dl (5.8mmol/L), 1hr plasma glucose level  $\geq$  190mg/dl (10.6mmol/L), 2hrs plasma glucose level  $\geq$ 165mg/dl (9.2mmol/L) and 3hrs plasma glucose level  $\geq$  145mg/dl (8mmol/L)]. Two or more criteria must be met or exceeded for a positive diagnosis [9].

#### Statistical analysis

Data was statistically analyzed using SPSS with statistical package version 16. Numerical data were expressed as mean and standard deviation or median and range as appropriate. Qualitative data were expressed as frequency and percentage. Chi-square test (Fisher's exact test) was used to examine the relation between qualitative variables. For quantitative data, Student's t-test, was used to collectively indicate the presence of any significant difference between two groups for a normally distributed quantitative variable. P-value < 0.05 was considered significant difference & p-value >0.05 was considered non-significant difference.

## 3. Results

Present study found that 22.4% Of pregnant women between 24- 28 weeks gestation were + ve for GDM when screened by one-hour OGCT Figure (1).

Among those with +ve one-hour oral glucose challenge test (OGCT) only 35.7% of them have +ve three- hours oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) Figure (2).

Overall Prevalence of gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) according to screening with three- hour oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) was 8% among the studied pregnant women Figure (3).

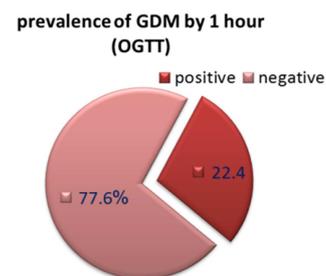
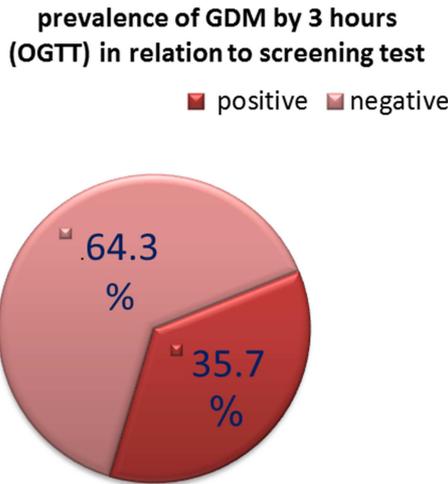
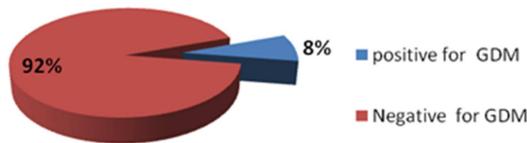


Figure 1. Prevalence of GDM according to screening with one- hour (OGCT) among the studied pregnant women.



**Figure 2.** Prevalence of GDM according to screening with three- hour (OGTT) among the studied pregnant women with +ve one-hour (OGCT).

**3 hours glucose tolerance test results in relation to the recruited participants**



**Figure 3.** Overall prevalence of GDM among the studied pregnant women.

The total number of pregnant females included in the study was 250 between 24- 28 weeks for gestational age. There was statistically significant difference between cases of GDM and control group regarding age, education and occupation; being more prevalent at age  $\geq 30$  years old, among those with secondary educational level and governmental employee. However, no significant relation was found between the two groups regarding socioeconomic level Table (1).

There was no statistically significant difference between group of cases and negative group for GDM regarding previous history of HTN and family history of HTN. However there was a significant difference between them regarding previous history of preeclampsia as 100% of the control groups have negative history for preeclampsia (P. value  $<0.001$ ). The mean  $\pm$  SD for measured blood pressure was significantly higher among +ve cases for GDM. About 45% of cases with GDM had a family history of DM, this association was found to be significant(P value  $< 0.001$ ). Table (2).

There was statistically significant difference between positive and negative groups for GDM regarding parity, previous history induction of labor, previous history of abortion and large size baby; as, 85% of cases are multiparous, and 98.7% of the negative groups have negative history of large size baby. Table (3).

There was statistically significant difference between both groups regarding passive smoking and BMI; as 85% of +ve cases for GDM have been exposed to passive smoking (P value  $< 0.001$ ), and 80% of them group had history of obesity (BMI  $\geq 30$ ) before pregnancy (P value  $< 0.001$ ) Table (4).

**Table 1.** Comparison between negative and positive cases for GDM regarding socio-demographic criteria of the studied pregnant women.

Socio-demographic data	Studied women				$\chi^2$	P value
	+ve cases (No=20)		-ve cases (No=230)			
	No.	%	No.	%		
Age (years):						
- <30	5	25	214	93	78.4	0.00**
- $\geq 30$	15	75	16	7		
Education:						
- High*	2	10	75	32.6	7.76	0.00**
- Secondary	12	60	128	55.6		
-Primary or less	6	30	27	11.7		
Occupation:						
House wife	7	35	179	77.8	14.2	0.00**
Governmental employee*	8	40	36	15.6		
Non governmental employee	5	25	15	6.5		
Socioeconomic level:						
Low	7	35	67	29.1	0.35	0.8
Moderate	11	55	134	58.3		
High	2	10	29	12.6		

**Table 2.** Relationship of GDM to medical and family of the studied pregnant women.

Hypertension	Studied Women				$\chi^2$	P value
	+ve Cases (No=20)		-ve cases (No=230)			
	No.	%	No.	%		
Previous history of hypertension:						
Yes	2	10	6	3	3.25	0.25
No	18	90	224	97		
Previous history of preeclampsia:						
Yes	6	30	0	0	70.6	0.00*
No	14	70	230	100		
Family history of hypertension:						
- Yes	8	40	71	32.1	0.52	0.64
- No	12	60	150	67.9		
Family history of diabetes:						
Yes	9	45	12	5.2	37.8	0.00**
No	11	55	218	94.8		
Measured blood pressure	Mean $\pm$ SD		Mean $\pm$ SD		t test	P value
Mean blood pressure	(87.5 $\pm$ 12.89)		(79.3 $\pm$ 9.95)		2.78	0.001*

**Table 3.** Relationship of GDM to obstetric history of the studied pregnant women.

Obstetric history	Studied Women				$\chi^2$	P value
	+ve Cases (No=20)		-ve Cases (No=230)			
	No.	%	No.	%		
Number of previous pregnancies:						
Primigravida	1	5	35	15.2	114.3	0.00**
1-2	2	10	183	79.6		
$\geq 3$	17	85	12	5.2		
Mode of previous labour (no= 216):						
Spontaneous labour	8	42	173	88.7	28.8	0.00**
Induction of labour	11	58	22	11.3		
Previous history of abortions:						
Yes	6	30	22	6.5	13.2	0.001*
No	14	70	215	93.5		
Large size baby:						
Yes	7	35	3	1.3	54.4	0.00**
No	13	65	227	98.7		

**Table 4.** Relationship of GDM to smoking and BMI before pregnancy among the studied pregnant women.

Smoking	Studied Women				$\chi^2$	P value
	Cases (No=20)		Controls (No=230)			
	No.	%	No.	%		
smoking:						
Passive	17	85	50	21.7	34.4	0.00**
No exposure to smoking	3	15	180	78.3		
Body mass index:						
Not obese < 30	8	20	210	91.3	38.9	0.00**
Obese $\geq 30$	12	80	20	8.7		

## 4. Discussion

Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) is a glucose tolerance disorder that occurs or diagnosed for the first time during pregnancy. It has been reported that GDM affects 1%–14% of all pregnancies, and that its incidence has been steadily rising [10]. It is associated with an increased risk of complications for mother and child during pregnancy and birth.

In the current study, prevalence of GDM among the studied pregnant females was 8%. These results come in parallel to the results of a studies [11] in India and Nigeria [12] which reported 7.7% and 8.3% prevalence of GDM

respectively. However, a study conducted in Iran [13] reported 3.41% prevalence of GD. This difference may be related to difference in diagnostic criteria used or population studied.

In current study, increasing age was associated with more chances of gestational diabetes as it was more frequent among those above 30 years old, this is in agreement with Seshiah et al study [14] in South India and Zokaie et al. study [15] in Iran; who observed significant increase in the prevalence of GDM with increased maternal age. Also, Kanadys [16] in Poland showed that age more than 35 years increased the risk for GDM more than threefold (OR, 3.10).

Prevalence of GDM in present study was found to be statistically related to parity  $\geq 3$ . This is in agreement with

*Yang et al* study [17] in China which found greater ratio of women with GDM in the group with parity >2. Seghieri et al study [18] in Italy observed that parity is not directly linked to insulin sensitivity deterioration or to GDM appearance, unless it is linked to the effect of progressive ageing and weight gain either before or during pregnancy. Also a study in Pakistan [19] reported that number of parity has no effect on the risk of GDM. This difference could probably be explained on the basis of the differences in study populations in terms of sample size or age.

As regard family history of diabetes; the present study reported a significant association between family history of diabetes and development of GDM among the studied group. This results comes in parallel to the findings of Soheilykhah et al study [20] in Iran, Rajput et al study [21] in India and Erem et al in Turkia [22] which reported that GDM was significantly associated with history of diabetes in first-degree relatives of the pregnant women.

In the present study, Birth of child weighting  $\geq 4000$  g, was significantly associated with development of GDM. This is in agreement with studies in Yemen [23] and Iran [15] in which there was an observed significant association between GDM and previous history of macrosomic baby.

Among participants in our study, the mean  $\pm$  SD for measured blood pressure was significantly higher among +ve cases for GDM. This comes in agreement with *Leng et al study* [24] in China and *Erem et al study* [22] in Turkia which observed that higher systolic, and diastolic BP positively associated with increase the risk of GDM. However, *Zokaie et al study* [15] in Iran found no significant difference between cases of GDM and the control group regarding blood pressure measurement.

In our results, there was a significant relation between previous history of preeclampsia and development of GDM in the current pregnancy. A study in Thailand [25] stated that women who experienced preeclampsia had significantly higher rates of obesity and poor glycemic control at GDM diagnosis

In this study we observed significant relation between GDM and both of previous history of induced labor and the previous history of cesarean section (CS). This comes in agreement with *studies* in Turkia [26] and Australia [27] showed that there is significant association between previous history of induced labor and GDM, increased cesarean section rate.

The results of this study showed that GDM was found to be significantly more prevalent among women with higher BMI ( $>30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>) and higher pre-pregnancy weight. This is in agreement with *Rajput et al study* [21] in India which reported significant association between prevalence of GDM and increasing BMI of participants. *Cypryk et al* [28] study had observed that occurrence of GDM in women with (BMI  $\geq 25$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>) was four times higher than in women with normal body weight. Also, a study conducted in Yemen [23] had observed that occurrence of GDM was as much as 3.76 times among the BMI group  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

Prevalence of Passive smoking in the current study was

significantly higher among cases of GDM. *Erem et al* study [22] in Turkia showed significant association between prevalence of GDM and smoking. Also *Leng et al* [24] in China founded that habitual smoker before or during pregnancy were positively associated with the risk of GDM (OR= 1.42).

## 5. Conclusion

The prevalence of GDM was found to be 8% among pregnant females attending the studied rural family health center. Controlling risk factors and Screening for early detection are mandatory for better maternal and fetal health.

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