

### **OP39: Factors influence the knowledge on pregnancy induced hypertension and its management among midwives in Jaffna District**

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**Introduction:** Pregnancy induced hypertension (PIH) is a non-communicable disease. It is a major cause of maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity worldwide. PIH develops during pregnancy due to failure of trophoblast to completely invade and thereby destroying the spiral arteries by 20-24 weeks of pregnancy. Adequate knowledge of midwives regarding PIH, its symptoms and adverse outcomes will help to identify the risk population as much as early and minimize the complications due to PIH.

**Methodology:** This descriptive cross sectional study was carried out in Jaffna district from August 2018 to July 2019. Study population was 208 midwives working either in the field or in the hospitals. A self-administered questionnaire was used to collect data. Data was analyzed by using SPSS version 21 and data was summarised as mean and percentages and presented in tables and diagrams. Pre-determined cut-off was used to assess the knowledge level, 50% was taken the cut-off. According to the score midwives were categorized into adequate knowledge and inadequate knowledge. Chi-square test was used to determine associations. Ethical approval was obtained from ERC, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna.

**Results:** All the midwives (208) were approached, among them 186 midwives gave their consent to participate. Response rate was 91.6%. The age of the participants varied from 27 to 65 years old with the mean age of 37.5 (SD 7.4). All the participants were Sri Lankan Tamil. Majority of them (91.4%) were Hindus. The participants who worked in field and hospital were 73.1% and 26.9% respectively. Participants were categorized into adequate knowledge (66.1%) and inadequate knowledge (33.9%). Mean knowledge was 65.0. Statistically significant relationship ( $p < 0.05$ ) was found with the age, religion, total experience in midwifery and participated in-service training programme regarding PIH

**Conclusion:** The study revealed that more than half of the midwives had adequate knowledge about pregnancy induced hypertension and its managements.

**Keywords:** PIH; midwives; knowledge; Jaffna.