

Research Article

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Determinants of Hepatitis B Virus Among Pregnant Women Attending Antenatal Care Visit at Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Central Ethiopia Region

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Abstract

Objective: To identify the determinants of the Hepatitis B virus among pregnant women attending antenatal care visits at Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Central Ethiopia Region, 2023.

Methods: A hospital-based unmatched case-control study design was conducted from July 3 to December 29/2023. The total sample size was 249 (166 controls and 83 cases). A systematic random sampling technique was used. Data were entered using Epi data 3.1 version and analyzed using SPSS version 25. Multicollinearity was checked by considering a variance inflation factor of greater than 10 and a tolerance of less than 0.05. The goodness of fit test was checked by using the Hosmer-Lemeshow goodness of fit test. Binary logistic regression analysis was done, and variables with a p-value of < 0.25 in the bivariable analysis were taken into the multivariable analysis. Statistical significance was declared at a p-value of < 0.05 with an adjusted odds ratio (AOR) and 95% confidence interval (CI).

Result: In this study, being rural residence [AOR 5.74, 95%CI: 1.94-16.95] having poor knowledge about Hepatitis B virus [AOR 0.15, 95%CI: 0.07-0.34], having a history of abortion [AOR 4.56, 95%CI: 1.66-12.53], having a history of female genital mutilation [AOR 5.29, 95%CI: 2.52-11.09], having history of sexually transmitted infection [AOR 4.62, 95%CI: 1.26-16.97], and having history of contact with a jaundice person [AOR 6.43, 95%CI: 1.53-26.94] were significantly associated.

Conclusion: In this study, residence, knowledge about Hepatitis B virus, history of abortion, history of female genital mutilation, history of sexually transmitted infection, and history of contact with a jaundiced person were found to be significant determinants of Hepatitis B virus infection. Therefore, creating awareness about the Hepatitis B virus, practicing safe abortion, avoiding female genital mutilation, preventing sexually transmitted infections, and avoiding unnecessary contact with a jaundiced person may minimize the burden of Hepatitis B virus.

Keywords: Determinants, Hepatitis B Virus, Pregnant Women, Antenatal Care Visit

1. Introduction

Literatures show that the HBV infection among pregnant women is associated with various factors across studies [12-17]. Studies from different settings are crucial to precisely measure the burden of the problem and to make informed decisions. However, these studies are cross sectional that assessed the prevalence at a single period of time even there was association. Identifying the determinants of HBV infection and targeting on the factors would decrease the potential impact of HBV on maternal and child health. This study focused on Therefore, this study aimed to identify the determinants of the Hepatitis B virus among pregnant women attending antenatal care visits at Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Central Ethiopia Region, 2023.

2. Methods and Materials

2.1. Study Area and Period

The study was conducted at the antenatal care clinic of Nigist Eleni Mohammed Memorial Comprehensive Specialized Hospital, in Hosanna town, Central Ethiopia. It is located 230 kilometers from Addis Ababa (the capital of Ethiopia). Hosanna is the administrative center and city of Central Ethiopia's regional state and Hadiya zone. Nigist Eleni Mohammed Memorial Comprehensive Specialized Hospital is one of the comprehensive specialized hospitals in the region and it is a teaching hospital of WA chemo University. The study was conducted from July 3 to December 29, 2023.

Study Design

A hospital-based unmatched case-control study design was conducted

Study Population

All selected pregnant women attended the antenatal care clinic at Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Central Ethiopia Region during the study period.

Control Definition: All selected pregnant women attending the antenatal care clinic at Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Central Ethiopia Region whose laboratory result of HBV antigen was negative.

Case Definition: All selected pregnant women attending the antenatal care clinic at Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Central Ethiopia Region whose laboratory result of HBV antigen was positive.

Eligibility Criteria

A pregnant woman attending the antenatal care clinic of Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Central Ethiopia Region during the study period was included, whereas, pregnant women who visited more than one time at Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Central Ethiopia Region excluded.

Sample Size Determination

The sample size for the study was determined by using Epi Info version 7 by considering the assumptions of 95% confidence level, 80% power, the ratio of control to case two to one (2:1), and adjusted odds ratio (AOR) from previous studies. A non-response rate of 10% was considered. (Table 1).

Variable	% of control exposed	AOR	Sample size	Total sample size with a 10% non-response rate	References
History of contact with liver disease patient	5.6%	5.6	135	149	(18)
History of multiple sexual partners	3.2%	10.8	92	101	
Tonsillectomy	2.9%	5.7	226	249	
Educational status	68.48%	6.532	94	103	(19)

Table 1: Sample Size Determination of Determinants of HBV among Pregnant Women Attending Antenatal Visit at Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Central Ethiopia Region, 2023

From the calculated sample sizes above, 249 was the largest and it was the final sample size for this study.

Sampling Procedure

The average monthly flow of pregnant women to the ANC clinic was 291 and the six months flow was expected to be 1,746 (1,660 controls and 86 cases). Then, the women were selected by using a systematic random sampling technique for controls, considering a constant value of 10, which was obtained by dividing the total control population by the total control sample size (1,660/166) as there was no sampling frame. The first woman was determined by a lottery method and every tenth woman was interviewed until the required sample size of 166 was completed. However, the cases were included consecutively.

2.2. Study Variables

Dependent Variable: HBV Independent Variables

Sociodemographic Factors: age, ethnicity, marital status, educational level, educational level of husbands, residence, occupation of husband, and income level.

Maternity-Related Factors: gravidity, parity, gestational age, history of home delivery, history of abortion, history of female genital mutilation, history of sexually transmitted infection, and HIV test result.

Medical-Related Factors: history of jaundice, history of health facility admission, history of blood transfusion, and history of surgical procedure.

Traditional Practice-Related Factors: traditional means of dental extraction, history of body or ear piercing, history of tonsillectomy or vulvectomy, and history of contact with a jaundiced person.

Personal and Familial Risky Behavior: history of sharp instrument injury, history of multiple sexual partners, history of previous marriage, and husband having another wife.

Knowledge-Related Factor: knowledge of pregnant women about HBV.

2.3. Operational Definition

Control: All selected pregnant women attending the antenatal care clinic at Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Central Ethiopia Region whose laboratory result of HBV antigen was negative.

Case: All selected pregnant women attending the antenatal care clinic at Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Central Ethiopia Region whose laboratory result of HBV antigen was positive.

Piercing: A type of body beautification where a sharp material punctures a hole in the body, ears, or nose parts where jewelry had been inserted [13-18,20].

Tattoo: A form of body art that is created when ink is inserted, using a needle or other sharp materials into the dermis layer of the skin [18,20].

Laboratory Investigation: The five milliliters of serum sample of the 249 recruited pregnant women were screened for HBV using latex rapid agglutination slide test for detecting hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg). Reactive samples were further confirmed for HBsAg using enzyme linked immunosorbent assay.

2.4. Data Collection Tool and Process

The tool was prepared in English containing sociodemographic factors, maternity-related factors, medical-related factors, traditional practice-related factors, personal and familial risky behavior, and knowledge-related factors adapted from various related literature [18, 20-24]. Two bachelor of sciences degree midwives were recruited for data collection. One gynecologist and one experienced epidemiologist were recruited for supervision.

2.5. Data Quality Assurance

The questionnaire was translated to Amharic (the official language

of Ethiopia) before data collection, and back to English after data collection to ensure consistency by language expertise. A Pre-test was done on 5% of the total sample size at Durame General Hospital and necessary modification was performed based on the pre-test. A-day training was given for data collectors and supervisors at the targets of the have a look at, how to pick out have a look at individuals, a way to preserve the confidentiality of statistics, the contents of the questionnaire, the way to interview and fill on fact's series layout, and data exceptional management. The supervisors and investigators conducted everyday follow-ups during the whole period of data collection. Every day, after data collection, each questionnaire was reviewed and checked for completeness and the necessary feedback was given to the data collectors the next day. Cases and controls were identified by supervisors and the data collectors were blind to cases and controls.

2.6. Statistical Analysis

Data were entered using Epi data 3.1 version and analyzed using SPSS version 25. Data cleaning was performed to check for missed values and then descriptive analysis such as proportions, percentages, and mean were done and tables and graphs were used for presentation. Multicollinearity was checked by considering a variance inflation factor of greater than 10 and a tolerance of less than 0.05. The goodness of fit test was checked by using the Hosmer-Lemeshow goodness of fit test. Binary logistic regression analysis was done, and variables with a p-value of < 0.25 in the bivariable analysis were taken into the multivariable analysis. Statistical significance was declared at a p-value of < 0.05 with an AOR and 95% confidence interval.

3. Result

3.1. Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Two hundred forty-nine (166 controls and 83 cases) pregnant women were included in this study and that made the overall response rate 100%. About 68(41.0%) controls and 36(43.4%) cases were in the age group of 25-29 years old. More than half, 115(69.3%) controls and 63(75.9%) were from the ethnic group of Hadiyas. Majority, 157(94.6%) controls and 79(95.2%) cases were married. The educational status of 65(39.2%) controls and 30(36.1%) cases was grade 9-12th. Majority, 154(92.8%) controls and 70(84.3%) cases were live in urban. The occupation of 59(35.5%) controls and 30(36.1%) was house wife. The overall socio-demographic characteristics of pregnant women attending antenatal visits are described below. (Table 2).

Variables (n=249)	Category	Controls (n=166)		Cases (n=83	83)	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	
The age group of women	18-24 years old	39	23.5	18	21.7	
	25-29 years old	68	41.0	36	43.4	
	30-34 years old	49	29.5	26	31.3	
	35-40 years old	10	6.0	3	3.6	
Ethnicity of women	Hadiya	115	69.3	63	75.9	
	Gurage	11	6.6	3	3.6	

	Silte	19	11.4	11	13.3
	Kembata	21	12.7	6	7.2
Marital status of women	Married	157	94.6	79	95.2
	Single	3	1.8	3	3.6
	Divorced	6	3.6	1	1.2
Educational status of women	Grade 1-8th	40	24.1	25	30.1
	Grade 9-12th	65	39.2	30	36.1
	Diploma	31	18.7	15	18.1
	Degree and above	30	18.1	13	15.7
Educational status of husbands (n=245)	Grade 1-8	13	7.9	12	15.0
	Grade 9-12	42	25.5	21	26.3
	Diploma	35	21.2	10	12.5
	Degree and above	75	45.5	37	46.3
Residence	Urban	154	92.8	70	84.3
	Rural	12	7.2	13	15.7
Occupation of women	Housewife	59	35.5	30	36.1
	Student	9	5.4	9	10.8
	Gov't employee	41	24.7	16	19.3
	Private employee	29	17.5	14	16.9
	Merchant	28	16.9	14	16.9
Occupation of husbands (n=245)	Farmer	13	7.9	11	13.8
	Student	2	1.2	34	42.5
	Gov't employee	79	47.9	13	16.3
	Private employee	32	19.4	11	13.8
	Merchant	27	16.4	11	13.8
	Deriver	12	7.3	11	13.8
Monthly income in Ethiopia birr	<2000 birr	16	9.6	12	14.5
	2001-4000 birr	45	27.1	18	21.7
	4001-6000 birr	58	34.9	28	33.7
	>6000 birr	47	28.3	25	30.1

Table 2: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Pregnant Women Attending Antenatal Visit at Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Central Ethiopia Region, 2023

3.2. Maternity Related Factors

More than half, 119(71.7%) controls and 59(71.1%) cases were multigravida. About 74(44.6%) controls and 38(45.8%) cases were multipara. The gestational age of 96(57.8%) controls and 42(50.6%) cases was 3rd trimester. Most, 156(94.0%) controls and 79(95.2%) cases had no history of home delivery. The majority,

154(92.8%) controls and 66(79.5%) cases had no history of abortion. More than half, 96(57.8%) controls and 31(37.3%) cases had female genital mutilation. Most of, the 161(97.0%) controls and 72(86.7%) cases had no history of sexually transmitted infection. Only 2(1.2%) controls and 3(3.6%) cases were carriers of human immune deficiency virus (HIV). (Table 3).

Variables (n=249)	Category	Controls (n=	:166)	Cases (n=83)	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Gravidity	Primigravida	33	19.9	15	18.1
	Multi gravida	119	71.7	59	71.1
	Grand multigravida	14	8.4	9	10.8
Parity	Null para	32	19.3	16	19.3
	Primipara	54	32.5	25	30.1
	Multi para	74	44.6	38	45.8
	Grand multipara	6	3.6	4	4.8

Gestational age	1st trimester	17	10.2	5	6.0
	2 nd trimester	53	31.9	36	43.4
	3 rd trimester	96	57.8	42	50.6
History of home delivery	No	156	94.0	79	95.2
	Yes	10	6.0	4	4.8
History of abortion	No	154	92.8	66	79.5
	Yes	12	7.2	17	20.5
Female genital mutilation	No	70	42.2	52	62.7
	Yes	96	57.8	31	37.3
History of sexually transmitted infection	No	161	97.0	72	86.7
	Yes	5	3.0	11	13.3
HIV test result	Negative	164	98.8	80	96.4
	Positive	2	1.2	3	3.6

Table 3: Maternity-Related Characteristics of Pregnant Women Attending Antenatal Visit at Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Central Ethiopia Region, 2023

3.3. Medically Related Factors

All controls and 69(83.1%) cases had on history of jaundice. About 77(46.4%) controls and 46(55.4%) cases had a history of health facility admission. Most, 155(93.4%) controls and 80(96.4%) cases

had no history of blood transfusion. The majority, 144(86.7%) controls and 68(81.9%) cases had no history of surgical procedure. (Table 4).

Variables (n=249)	Category	Controls (n=	:166)	Cases (n=83)		
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	
History of jaundice	No	166	100.0	69	83.1	
	Yes	0	0.0	14	16.9	
History of health facility admission	No	89	53.6	37	44.6	
	Yes	77	46.4	46	55.4	
History of blood transfusion	No	155	93.4	80	96.4	
	Yes	11	6.6	3	3.6	
History of surgical procedure	No	144	86.7	68	81.9	
	Yes	22	13.3	15	18.1	

Table 4: Medical-Related Characteristics of Pregnant Women Attending Antenatal Visit at Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Central Ethiopia Region, 2023

3.4. Traditional Practice-Related Factors

More than half, 143(86.1%) controls and 60(72.3%) cases had no traditional means of dental extraction. The majority, 101(60.8%) controls and 59(71.1%) cases had a history of body or ear piercing.

About 120(72.3%) controls and 42(50.6%) cases had no history of tonsillectomy or uvuloctomy. The majority, 162(97.6%) controls and 74(89.2%) cases had no history of contact with a jaundiced person. (Table 5).

Variables (n=249)	Category	Controls (n=	Controls (n=166) Cases (n=83		
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Traditional means of dental extraction	No	143	86.1	60	72.3
	Yes	23	13.9	23	27.7
History body or ear piercing	No	65	39.2	24	28.9
	Yes	101	60.8	59	71.1
History tonsillectomy or vulvectomy	No	120	72.3	42	50.6
	Yes	46	27.7	41	49.4
History of contact with a jaundiced person	No	162	97.6	74	89.2
	Yes	4	2.4	9	10.8

Table 5: Traditional Practice-Related Characteristics of Pregnant Women Attending Antenatal Visit at Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Central Ethiopia Region, 2023

3.5. Personal and Familial Risky Behavior

More than half, 92(55.4%) controls, and 50(60.2%) cases had a history of sharp instrument injury. All study participants reported no history of multiple sexual partners. Only 2(1.3%) controls and

1(1.2%) cases had previous marriage. Also, in 3(1.8%) controls and 2(2.4%) cases, the woman's husband had another wife. (Table 6).

Variables (n=249)	Category	Controls (n=	166) Cases (n=83)		
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
History of sharp instrument injury	No	74	44.6	33	39.8
	Yes	92	55.4	50	60.2
History of multiple sexual partners	No	166	100.0	83	100.0
	Yes	0	0.0	0	0.0
History previous marriage	No	164	98.8	82	98.8
	Yes	2	1.2	1	1.2
The husband had another wife	No	163	98.2	81	97.6
	Yes	3	1.8	2	2.4

Table 6: Personal and Familial Risky Behavior of Pregnant Women Attending Antenatal Visit at Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Central Ethiopia Region, 2023

3.6. Knowledge of Pregnant Women About HBV

Out of 166 controls, 77(46%) and from 83 cases 10(12.0%) had good knowledge about Hepatitis B virus infection (Figure).

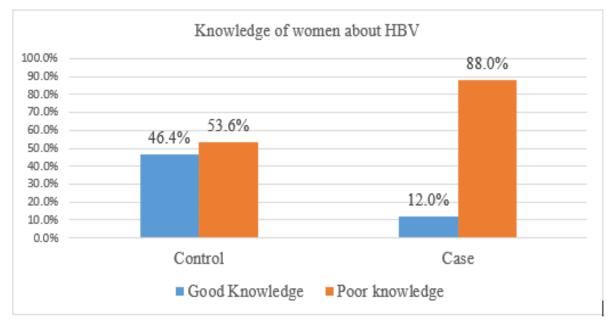


Figure : Knowledge of Women about HBV of Pregnant Women Attending Antenatal Visit at Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Central Ethiopia Region, 2023

3.7. Factors Associated with the HBV

In bivariable logistic regression analysis; residence, knowledge about HBV, history of abortion, history of female genital mutilation, history of sexually transmitted infection, traditional means of dental extraction, history of tonsillectomy or vulvectomy, and history of contact with a jaundice person were statistically associated with HBV. (Table 7).

Whereas; in multivariable analysis; residence [AOR 5.74, 95%CI: 1.94-16.95] knowledge about HBV [AOR 0.15, 95%CI: 0.07-0.34], history of abortion [AOR 4.56, 95%CI: 1.66-12.53], history of female genital mutilation [AOR 5.29, 95%CI: 2.52-11.09], history of sexually transmitted infection [AOR 4.62, 95%CI: 1.26-16.97], and history of contact with a jaundiced person [AOR 6.43, 95%CI: 1.53-26.94] were significantly associated with HBV. (Table 7).

Variables (n=249)	Category	HBV		COR (95% CI)	AOR (95% CI)	p-value
		Control(n=166)	Case(n=83)			
Residence	Urban	154(61.9%)	70(28.1%)	1	1	
	Rural	12(4.8%)	13(5.2%)	2.38(1.04-5.49)	5.74(1.94-16.95)	0.002*
Knowledge about HBV	Poor	89(35.7%)	73(29.3%)	1	1	
	Good	77(30.9%)	10(4.1%)	0.16(0.08-0.33)	0.15(0.07-0.34)	0.000*
History of abortion	No	154(61.9%)	66(26.5%)	1	1	
	Yes	12(4.8%)	17(6.8%)	3.31(1.49-7.31)	4.56(1.66-12.53)	0.003*
History of female genital mutilation	No	52(20.9%)	70(28.1%)	1	1	
	Yes	31(12.4%)	96(38.6%)	2.30(1.34-3.95)	5.29(2.52-11.09)	0.000*
History of sexually transmitted infection	No	161(64.7%)	72(28.9%)	1	1	
	Yes	5(2.0%)	11(4.4%)	4.92(1.65-14.68)	4.62(1.26-16.97)	0.021*
Traditional means dental extraction	No	143(57.4%)	60(24.1%)	1	1	
	Yes	23(9.2%)	23(9.2%)	2.38(1.24-4.57)	1.77(0.75-4.19)	0.196
History of tonsillectomy or vulvectomy	No	120(48.2%)	42(16.9%)	1	1	
	Yes	46(18.5%)	41(16.4%)	2.55(1.47-4.41)	1.91(0.93-3.95)	0.078
History of contact with a jaundiced person	No	162(65.1%)	74(29.7%)	1	1	
	Yes	4(1.6%)	9(3.6%)	4.93(1.47-16.51)	6.43(1.53-26.94)	0.011*

Table 7: Bivariable and Multivariable Regression Analysis of HBV of Pregnant Women Attending Antenatal Visit at Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Central Ethiopia Region, 2023

4. Discussion

This study revealed that residence was significantly associated with the HBV. Pregnant women who live in rural settings were 5.74 times more likely to acquire the HBV compared to pregnant women who live in urban settings. It was similar to some other studies done in Ethiopia [15-25]. This might be related to the way of living in which the rural women are engaged, the living standard in the rural setting, and less exposure to media about infection prevention. Additionally, in a rural setting, there is cross-contamination due to a lack of knowledge in prevention, and social definition of the diseases.

In this study, knowledge about the HBV was found to be a significant determinant of HBV among pregnant women. Pregnant women who had good knowledge about HBV were 85% less likely to acquire HBV compared to pregnant women who had poor knowledge. The possible explanation for this might be that knowledgeable women might take care of themselves to prevent infection. In addition, the knowledgeable women were aware of the transmission ways and might combat the spread of the infection. Previous studies indicate that the knowledge of HBV in the community was low [18-26,27].

In this study, the history of abortion was identified as a significant determinant of the HBV among pregnant women. Pregnant women who had a history of abortion were 4.56 times more likely to acquire the HBV compared to pregnant women who did not have a history of abortion. It was similar to other studies [13-28]. This might be related to unskilled and/or traditional personnel and the use of unsterile instruments for the procedure.

This study showed that a history of female genital mutilation was found to be a significant determinant of the HBV among pregnant women. Pregnant women who had a history of female genital mutilation were 5.29 times more likely to acquire the HBV compared to pregnant women who did not have a history of female genital mutilation. This might be due shared use of genital mutilating sharp materials and body fluid contamination from the girl at the time and wound healing stages. However, in another study done at Adigrat General Hospital, Northern Ethiopia, a history of surgical and dental procedures was a protective mechanism for acquiring HBV infection [28]. This might be related to following strict sterile techniques to prevent infection transmission during procedures. In addition, it might be due to differences in study design, sample size, and socio-cultural risk behaviors of the study participants.

In this study, a history of sexually transmitted infection was found to be a determinant factor of the HBV among pregnant women. Pregnant women who had a history of sexually transmitted infection were 4.62 times more likely to acquire the HBV compared to pregnant women who did not have a history of sexually transmitted infection. This is obvious that the HBV itself is sexually transmitted. As a result, those pregnant women having sexually transmitted infections were vulnerable to similarly acquiring HBV.

This study showed that a history of contact with a jaundiced person was found to be a significant determinant of the HBV among pregnant women. Pregnant women who had a history of contact with a jaundiced person were 6.43 times more likely

to acquire the HBV compared to pregnant women who did not have a history of contact with a jaundiced person. This finding is supported by other studies [18-21,22]. Works of literature indicate that the risk of HBV transmission is high in people who are in contact with chronically infected HBV participants [18-29]. The possible explanation for this might be due to having a wide chance of contact with the body fluids of the chronic carriers. In addition, the transmission of the virus through contact with a jaundiced person is secondary to HBV infection.

However, in another studies, age (10), tattoos, and tonsillectomy were found to be a significant risk factor of HBV among pregnant women, unlike this study [18-21,22]. This might be due to differences in sociodemographic characteristics of women, differences in study design, differences in sample size, and time variation of the studies.

4.1. Limitations of the Study

The chronicity of the virus was not analyzed.

5. Conclusion

In this study, residence, knowledge about HBV, history of abortion, history of female genital mutilation, history of sexually transmitted infection, and history of contact with a jaundiced person were found to be significant determinants of HBV infection. Therefore, creating awareness about the HBV, practicing safe abortion, avoiding female genital mutilation, preventing sexually transmitted infections, and avoiding unnecessary contact with a jaundiced person may minimize the burden of the HBV.

Ethical Consideration

Ethical clearance was obtained from the Wachemo University department of Comprehensive Nursing Ethical Review Committee (CN/ERC/92/15). A letter of permission was obtained from the Medical Directors of the hospital and a permission letter was provided to the maternity and child health case team coordinator.

Informed Consent

Written informed consent was obtained from each participant woman and the information obtained from them would not have been disclosed. Coding was used to eliminate names and other personal identifications of respondents. The respondents' right to refuse, or stop at any time, confidentiality, and the purpose of the information was only for a research was clearly stated. Thoroughly, the research fulfills the required principles of the declaration of the Helsinki General Assembly, Seoul, Korea, and October 2008.

Acknowledgment

We would like to thank the study participants for the scarification of their valuable time spent during the interview.

Authors' Contribution

All authors have made substantial contributions to the work. Participated in the conception, design, and acquisition, conducted the data analysis and interpretation; took part in drafting, revising, and critically reviewing the article. All authors gave final approval

of the version to be published and all authors have agreed on the journal to which the article has been submitted; and agreed to be personally accountable for all aspects of the work.

Availability of Data

The data used for this study are available on secured and reasonable request.

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