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Prevalence and Risk Factors to Premature Rupture Membrane through a Study in Jiblah University Hospital, ibb, Governorate, Yemen

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ABSTRACT

Background: Prelabour rupture of membranes (PROM), previously known as premature rupture of membranes, PROM occurs when the leakage of amniotic fluid occurs at least one hour before the initiation of labor. The fetal membranes normally rupture spontaneously during labor probably due to the physical effects of repetitive uterine contraction.

Objectives: As no studies have previously been conducted about PROM in Jiblah University Hospital in Ibb governorate, Yemen, we hereby aimed to present first report on prevalence and risks factors contributing and causes of PROM.

Methods: This retrospective observational study was conducted in the department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Jiblah University Hospital in Ibb governorate, from December 2023 to Feb 2024. Data were retrieved from the antenatal ward admission register, case files, theatre records, and neonatal care unit records and reviewed. Descriptive statistics were used to describe data. Chi-square test with a significance level set at p < 0.05

Results: A total of 1350 women of reproductive age between 15 to 56 years were included in the study. With mean $(\pm SD)$ age of the respondents was 27.5 (± 6.3) years.

At the individual level, 627 (46.4%) of the respondents were 15 – 25 years old. At the household/community- level with 1063 (78.70%) of the study respondents resided in rural. About 640(47.40%) having more than 3 of family number. Nearly 1075 (79.60%) of them are literate. About 1234(91.40%) had normal blood pressure. Regarding cigarette smoking, 138 (10.20%) smokers and 1212 (89.80%) were non- smokers. Nine hundred and thirty- three (69.10%) of the khat chewing had a history of khat chewing during this pregnancy and 417 (30.90%) of the non-khat chewing. Eight hundred and seventy-two (64.59%) of the urinary tract infection during this pregnancy. On the other hand, all the individual and household/community factors were significantly associated with PROM are family number, vaginitis, urinary tract infection, duration of PROM, abortion where the chi squire test p-value was<0.05.

Conclusion: In this study, a family number, vaginitis, urinary tract infection, duration of PROM, abortion are the risk factors for PROM. Recognizing the most common risk factors for PROM will help to increase the awareness about high-risk pregnancy, improve the preventive measures of preterm risk factors and modify preterm care protocol in nurseries.

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Keywords: PROM, Risk Factors, Infection, Jiblah

Materials and Methods Design of the Study

This study was conducted retrospective observational study was conducted in the department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Jiblah University Hospital in Ibb city, from December 2023 to February/2024. The study was conducted in accordance with the ethical principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki and received approval from Jiblah University Ethics Research Committee (approval number: 167). Consent from the patients was waived off by the ethical committee of the institute because of the retrospective design of the study.

Study Population

Patients who were admitted in this hospital with gestational age 28 weeks and more with pre-labor premature rupture of membrane (PROM) confirmed by speculum examination and ultrasound for gestational age and amniotic fluid index (AFI), were included.

Data Collection

For data collection, the maternity records available in the hospital archive were used. The sampling method in this study was based on complete enumeration and all the records in the hospital archive were evaluated.

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Cases were excluded from analysis for women lost to follow-up or with missing data. The hospital database including hospital information system (archive medical records), were used to collect the following data: socio-demographic characteristics, maternal obstetric and medical history, behavioral and nutritional characteristics, and fetal-related characteristics. However, maternal obstetric, medical, and fetal-related data that could not be addressed by interviews, such as gestational age, UTI, abnormal vaginal discharge, anemia, antepartum hemorrhage, gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM), PIH, fetal presentation, and polyhydramnios, were collected from patient's medical records and charts. The data were gathered in the labor and maternity wards of each selected hospital.

Data Analysis

Analysis was done using SPSS version 26 statistical software (IBM SPSS Statistics). Frequencies, percentages and descriptive statistics were computed to describe the demographic characteristics of respondents and outcome variable (mode of delivery). Chi squire test was performed to examine the existence of a relationship between warty leaking and the independent variables. All independent variables that were statistically significant at P-value < 0.05.

Important of Study

Since the studies in our country on preterm pre rupture membrane in general are very minor and almost negligible, especially with regard to the high incidence of preterm pre rupture membrane among Yemeni women and at the same time the reasons behind this high prevalence at the level of the republic in general and the level of Ibb governorate in particular.

So, in the absence of previous studies here in Ibb City –Yemen, on Assessment and Investigation of Risk Factors for preterm pre rupture membrane rate among pregnant women, we were interested in doing such an important area of research.

Objectives

The main objective of this study is to assess the role of potential risk factors in the occurrence of preterm pre rupture membrane (PPRM) among pregnant women referred to Jiblah University Hospital in Ibb, Yemen. This may be achieved through attainment of the specific objectives as outlined below.

- To identify and understand the factors that contribute to development of preterm pre rupture membrane PPRM.
- To investigate the prevalence and risk factors of preterm pre rupture membrane in pregnant women referred to Jiblah University Hospital in Ibb, Yemen. To do the prevention for PROM.

Results

A total of 1350 pregnancies, 109 (8.10%) were PROM and a higher proportion of the pregnant women 1241 (91.9%) did not have PROM at Jiblah University Hospital, Ibb. The mean maternal age for these patients with pre-labor rupture of membranes (PROM) was 27.5 ±6.3 years. A higher proportion of the pregnant women with PROM 1063(78.70%) were in the age group from 15 – 25 years. At the household/community- level with1063(78.70%) of the study respondents resided in rural areas. About 640 (47.40%) having more than 3 of family number. Nearly1075 (79.60%) of them are literate. Regarding cigarette smoking, 138 (10.20%) are smokers and 1212 (89.80%) were nonsmokers. 933(69.10%) of the khat chewers had a history of khat chewing during this pregnancy and 417 (30.90%) of the non khat chewing. 872 (64.59%) of the urinary tract infection during this pregnancy. (Table 1)

Table 1: Baseline Characteristics of Subject Study

Variables		Count	Table N %
Pre-labor rupture of membranes	Yes	109	8.10%
	No	1241	91.90%
Duration of PROM	1	82	6.07
	2	17	1.26
	3	10	0.74
	4	1241	91.93
Age	15 to 25	627	46.40%
	26 to 36	594	44.00%
	37 to 47	125	9.30%
	48+	4	0.30%
family number	< 3	386	28.60%
	three	324	24.00%
	4+	640	47.40%
Residence	Rural	1063	78.70%
	Urban	287	21.30%
Education	literate	1075	79.60%
	illiterate	275	20.40%
Worker	Yes	1274	94.40%
	No	76	5.60%
Smoking	Yes	138	10.20%
	No	1212	89.80%

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Chewing Kat:	Yes	933	69.10%
	No	417	30.90%
Urinary tract infection	Yes	872	64.59
	No	478	35.41
Uterine anomalies	Yes	74	5.48
	No	1276	94.52
Antepartum hemorrhages	Yes	12	0.89
	No	1338	99.11
Nutritional deficiencies of copper and ascorbic acid	Yes	74	5.48
	No	1276	94.52
Congenial anomalies for baby	Yes	12	0.89
	No	1338	99.11
Uterine overdistention	Yes	46	3.41
	No	1304	96.59
Multiple pregnancy	Yes	70	5.19
	No	1280	94.81
Preeclampsia, eclampsia	Yes	1236	91.56
	No	114	8.44
Antenatal care	Yes	1317	97.56
	No	33	2.44
Vaginal bleeding history in current pregnancy	Yes	74	5.48
	No	1276	94.52
History of cervical incompetence	Yes	74	5.48
	No	1276	94.52
Placenta abruption	Yes	12	0.89
	No	1338	99.11
Preterm labor	Yes	171	12.67
	No	1179	87.33
vaginitis	Yes	872	64.59
	No	478	35.41
Anemia	Yes	74	5.48
	No	1276	94.52

All the individual and household/community factors were significantly associated with PROM are family number, vaginitis, urinary tract infection, duration of PROM, abortion where the Chi squire test p-value were <0.05.

Table 2: Association between Socio-Demographic and Reproductive Characteristics and Watery Leaking

			There are watery leaking					
			Yes(109) No(1241)					
Variables		N	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	chi squire	pvalue
Age	15 to 25	627	47	7.50%	580	92.50%	6.921	0.074
	26 to 36	594	58	9.80%	536	90.20%		
	37 to 47	125	4	3.20%	121	96.80%		
	48+	4	0	0.00%	4	100.00%		
	Mean ± Std=27.49±6.3							

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Family numbers	< 3	386	43	11.10%	343	88.90%	6.933	0.031*
Tamily nomeons	Three	324	21	6.50%	303	93.50%		
	4+	640	45	7.00%	595	93.00%		
Residence	Rural	1063	84	7.90%	979	92.10%	0.199	0.655
	Urban	287	25	8.70%	262	91.30%		
Education	Literate	1075	85	7.90%	990	92.10%		
	Illiterate	275	24	8.70%	251	91.30%	0.199	0.656
worker?	Yes	1274	100	7.80%	1174	92.20%		
	No	76	9	11.80%	67	88.20%		
Smoking	Yes	138	13	9.40%	125	90.60%	0.375	0.54
	No	1212	96	7.90%	1116	92.10%		
Chewing Khat:	Yes	933	81	8.70%	852	91.30%	1.502	0.22
	No	417	28	6.70%	389	93.30%		V
Preeclampsia, eclampsia	Yes	1236	100	8.10%	1136	91.90%	0.005	0.941
Treesmanpstan, commispera	No	114	9	7.90%	105	92.10%	0.002	0.5.1
Antenatal care	Yes	1317	108	8.20%	1209	91.80%	1.159	0.28
. Intellutur Cure	No	33	1	3.00%	32	97.00%	1.137	0.20
Vaginal bleeding (history	Yes	74	10	13.50%	64	86.50%	3.121	0.077
in current pregnancy)	No	1276	99	7.80%	1177	92.20%	3.121	0.077
History of cervical	Yes	74	10	13.50%	64	86.50%	3.121	0.077
incompetence	No	1276	99	7.80%	1177	92.20%	3.121	0.077
Placenta abruption	Yes	1270	1	8.30%	11	91.70%	0.001	0.974
riacenta aoruption	No	1338	108	8.10%	1230	91.70%	0.001	0.974
Duotoure Johan	Yes	171	11	6.40%	160	93.60%	0.711	0.399
Preterm labor	No	1179	98	8.30%	100	93.00%	0.711	0.399
vaginitis	Yes	872	102	11.70%	770	88.30%	43.558	0
vaginitis	No	478	7	1.50%	471	98.50%	43.336	0
Anemia	Yes	74	10	13.50%	64	86.50%	3.121	0.077
Anemia	No Yes	1276	99	7.80%	1177	92.20%	3.121	0.077
Lluin aury tug at in faction						88.30%	12 550	0
Urinary tract infection	Yes	872	102	11.70%	770		43.558	0
T.T. 1.	No	478	7		471	98.50%	2 121	0.077
Uterine anomalies	Yes	74	10	13.50%	64	86.50%	3.121	0.077
A (No	1276	99	7.80%	1177	92.20%	0.001	0.074
Antepartum hemorrhages	Yes	12	1	8.30%	11	91.70%	0.001	0.974
-	No	1338	108	8.10%	1230	91.90%	2 121	0.077
Nutritional deficiencies of copper and ascorbic	Yes	74	10	13.50%	64	86.50%	3.121	0.077
acid	No	1276	99	7.80%	1177	92.20%		
Congenital anomalies	Yes	12	1	8.30%	11	91.70%	0.001	0.974
for baby	No	1338	108	8.10%	1230	91.90%		
Uterine overdistention	Yes	46	5	10.90%	41	89.10%	0.501	0.479
	No	1304	104	8.00%	1200	92.00%		
Multiple pregnancy	Yes	70	6	8.60%	64	91.40%	0.025	0.875
	No	1280	103	8.00%	1177	92.00%		
Premature rupture of	one	82	82	100.00%	0	0.00%	1350	0
membrane	Tow	17	17	100.00%	0	0.00%		
	three	10	10	100.00%	0	0.00%		
	Four	1241	0	0.00%	1241	100.00%		
Abortion number	0 to 1	1225	93	7.60%	1132	92.40%	4.145	0.042
		1440		/.00/0	1104	J 20 10 / U	1.110	0.0 TZ

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Gravity numbers	one	420	38	9.00%	382	91.00%	3.911	0.271
	2 to 4	617	44	7.10%	573	92.90%		
	5 to 8	264	20	7.60%	244	92.40%		
	9+	49	7	14.30%	42	85.70%		
parity numbers	no	459	44	9.60%	415	90.40%	4.092	0.252
	1 to 4	746	51	6.80%	695	93.20%		
	5 to 8	140	14	10.00%	126	90.00%		
	9+	5	0	0.00%	5	100.00%		

Discussion

Pre-labor rupture of membrane defined as the rupture of fetal membranes before the beginning of uterine contractions, is a common complication of pregnancy and the leading cause of preterm birth. In Jiblah University Hospital in Ibb city, the prevalence of pre-labor rupture of membrane varied significantly between settings due to variations in risk factors. Besides, there was no study conducted using primary data, particularly in the Jiblah University Hospital in Ibb, city.

Therefore, this study aimed to identify determinants of prelabor rupture of membrane among pregnant women attending in the Jiblah University Hospital, Ibb governorate. Our study presents the first report on PROM at the level of Ibb governorate and the two report at the level of Yemen, according the reported by [1].

This study investigated the pattern of pre-labor rupture of membranes in pregnancies and associated factors showing a prevalence of 8.10% of PROM among pregnant women above 28 weeks of gestation admitted at Jiblah University Hospital, Ibb governorate. This prevalence agreement with studies at Al-Sadaqa Teaching Hospital, Aden; this a prevalence of 11.1% of PROM among pregnant women above 28 weeks of gestation and reported within the worldwide range of 5 to 15% as reported by The prevalence of TPROM in this study was 10.4%, higher than that reported in the same hospital of 3.75%, and in USA (8.0%). Ethiopia (1.4%) [2-4].

The prevalence of preterm premature rupture of the membranes (PPROM) was similar between developed countries and developing countries: China (2.5%) Pakistan (3.27%), (Obi, S. N.2007) Nigeria (2.5%) [5]. Another study in Turkey reported a high prevalence of PPROM (43.14%) [6]. The low prevalence documented in this study (0.7%) is quite difficult to clarify at this current time. The accuracy of the diagnosis of rupture membranes and estimation of gestational age may probably be other variables that may affect the apparent prevalence of PPROM.

As a result, family number, abnormal vaginal infection, urinary tract infection, duration of watery leaking, abortion were independent predictors of PROM.

A prior history of abortion was predictor of PROM identified in the current study. In agreement with this result, different studies conducted in Mekelle, Southern and Nekemte, Ethiopia, Uganda, Egypt, Iran, and China reported that a prior history of abortion was associated with the incidence of PROM. The possible reason might be the risk of intraamniotic infection developing from latent upper genital tract infections in a mother who had a prior history of unsafe abortions without getting proper post abortion care using aseptic techniques [7-13]. In addition, pregnant mothers with two or more abortions probably had a short cervical length, which

raised the incidence of PROM [14]. As a result, women with a history of abortion need to be sensitized by all the attending health professionals on the risk of PROM and advised on the need for close monitoring during their subsequent pregnancies.

In contrast in our study, a study carried out in Thailand found that a previous history of abortion had no statistically significant association with PROM [15]. The discrepancy might be due to the exclusion criteria of the study participants. Similar to our study, women with a gestational age of less than 37 weeks and mal presentation of fetus were excluded from Thailand's study. Moreover, women who had a previous history of abortion might have received post abortion care with aseptic techniques in Thailand.

On the other hand, this study participants who developed UTI were found to have higher significantly associated with PROM. Similarly, different studies conducted in Debre Tabor, Ethiopia, Uganda, Cameroon, and India found that UTI was an independent determinant of PROM [16,17]. This could be due to the fact that bacterial infections in the urinary tract ascend through the vaginal and cervical canals into the decidua and fetal membrane, which ultimately leads to the release of prostaglandin and cytokines, thereby causing the cervix to soften and become more susceptible to ascending infections, resulting in PROM. Also, the direct release of bacterial proteolytic enzymes such as proteases, collagenases, or trypsin may cause fetal membrane damage, weakness, and subsequent rupture. Therefore, healthcare providers should screen pregnant mothers for UTI and treat all mothers with UTI during ANC visits.

The present study also revealed that abnormal vaginal infection was identified as a determinant of PROM. This finding is in agreement with studies conducted in Debre Tabor and Mekelle, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Cameroon, Togo and India [18-20]. The association might be explained by the presence of various microorganisms in the genital tract that proliferate and invade the amniotic fluid and fetal membranes, leading to PROM. Simultaneously, intraamniotic infection may increase the activity of the uterus, leading to increased intra-uterine pressure, which in turn puts greater stress on the fetal membranes, resulting in weakness and PROM [21]. Thus, healthcare providers should emphasize early screening, diagnosis, and treatment of abnormal vaginal discharge.

In contrast to our study, a population-based study conducted in Brazil showed that there was no association between genitourinary infections and PROM [22]. This difference might be due to a study done in Brazil that used a larger sample size, a cross-sectional study design, and the exclusion of term pregnant women. Also, it may be attributed to the self-reported and early treatment of these infections by most women in the Brazilian study.

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Maternal khat chewing was not identified as one of the determinants of PROM in the present study. Pregnant women who chewed khat had no statistically significant of developing PROM than their counterparts in this pregnancy. In contrast to our study, cross-sectional studies carried out in Eastern Ethiopia and Yemen reported that khat chewing was significantly associated with PROM [23,24]. This could be because khat by itself was found to cause loss of appetite and decreased absorption of nutrients in the gastrointestinal tract, which in turn decreased the availability of micronutrients essential for the strength of the fetal membrane collagen. The possible justification might also be that a woman who chewed khat had a higher risk of periodontal disease, as reflected by poor oral hygiene, calculus deposits, gingival pigmentation, and tooth loss [25]. Evidence from various studies showed that periodontal disease had an increased risk of the occurrence of PROM [26]. The possible reasons might be due to the dissemination of oral pathogens/byproducts and inflammatory mediators via the blood stream into the placenta, fetal circulation, amniotic fluid, and fetal membrane [27]. Therefore, it is important to increase awareness regarding the negative aspects of khat chewing during pregnancy.

The present study also revealed that multiple bimanual vaginal examinations was identified as a determinant of PROM. This finding is in agreement with studies conducted by ACOG Committee on Practice Bulletins-Obstetrics. It is found that the Chorioamnionitis is seen more commonly in women with prolonged preterm PROM, severe oligohydramnios, multiple vaginal examinations, and preterm PROM at an early gestational age.

In this study, PIH was no identified as a determinant of PROM. Pregnant women who had PIH had no statistically significant of developing PROM than their counterparts. This finding is in disagreement with the studies carried out in Southern Ethiopia, Uganda and China [28-30]. It is evident that in PIH, the initiating event is an abnormal or shallow cytotrophoblast invasion of spiral arterioles with insufficient uteroplacental blood flow. This result in an ischemic placenta, which leads to vascular endothelial cell activation by increasing the release of inflammatory cytokines or cell mediators that cause inflammation in the body [31-64].

Conclusion and Recommendations Conclusion

In this study, a family number, vaginitis, urinary tract infection, PROM and abortion are the risk factors for PROM. Recognizing the most common risk factors for PROM will help to increase the awareness about high-risk pregnancy, improve the preventive measures of preterm risk factors and modify preterm care protocol in nurseries.

Recommendations

In the light of the results reached to our study represented in the factors contributing to PROM through a study at Jiblah University Hospital, we were able to make a set of the following recommendations:

- We recommend that the hospital should improve the patients, records and registration in the hospital.
- We recommend that the hospital should establish a center for registration, management and follow up the patients with PROM.
- We recommend that the hospital record patients' date should be in an integrated manner.
- · We recommend that the hospital should perform laboratory

- tests and diagnosis of histological features and outcomes in women with PROM.
- We recommend that women should undergo health care before pregnancy.
- Continued research is needed to better understand the causes of preterm labor and develop more PROM effective prevention and treatment strategies. By implementing these recommendations, we can work towards reducing the incidence of PROM and improving the health outcomes for mothers.

Conflict of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest with other people, organizations or entities

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