Narrative Review

Oral health promotion in pregnant women: a narrative review

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Abstract

Background and purpose: Oral health behaviors in pregnant mothers are important owing to their impact on mother's and child's general health. The present study is designed to evaluate the type and success rate of interventions in oral health promotion programs.

Methods: A search of published papers in ProQuest, Pubmed, Biomed Central, Google Scholar, and Iran Scientific Information Database (SID) and Iran Press Information Bank (Magiran), was done using the keywords oral health promotion (program, prevention, knowledge, education) and pregnant women (pregnancy) from 1990 to January 2017. Out of 9653 titles, and excluding repeated and irrelevant papers in title and abstracts, 88 relevant full test papers in second step were evaluated, and finally, 24 papers were finally selected for review.

Results: Ten of the evaluated studies were experimental and 14 semi-experimental. Interventions in 21 studies were educational, in two were combined, and in one study was only in form of preventive services. Interventions were in form of educational programs alone, and with follow-up sessions, oral examination, preventive services, in different time intervals. Results indicated to a significant improvement in intervention groups in short term. Theory and model-based interventions were effectively improved oral health behaviors in pregnant women**.**

Conclusion: Education of oral health promoting behaviors and preventive services have positive effects on the oral health of pregnant women in short term, especially through theory and model-based interventions.

Keywords: Oral health promotion, prevention, intervention, pregnancy.

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[DOI: 10.29252/ijpd.13.1.73]