

## Maternal Periodontal Helth and Intrauterine Growth Retardation in Jeddah City, Saudi Arabia

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**Objectives:** To investigate the association between maternal periodontal infections and the occurrences of Intrauterine Growth Retardation "IUGR" among new born population delivered in Jeddah city, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. **Methods:** A match case-control study of 105 post partum mothers was performed between August 2001 and September 2002. at two major hospitals: Maternity and Children as well as King Abdulaziz University Hospital. Jeddah, The patient group was defined as mothers of babies with a birth weight of  $\leq 2500\text{g}$  And gestational age "GA" of  $\geq 37$  weeks. While the control were mothers who delivered Infants weighing more than  $3000\text{g}$  with  $\text{GA} \geq 37$  weeks. Data on previous and current preg-Nancies and known risk factors were obtained from the patients- medical records and inter-views. Maternal anthropometric data as well as periodontal health status were recorded by single examiner at the maternity inaiernity wards. **Results:** The population in this study was relatively homogenous. based on their demographic, social, anthropometric data as well as other risk factors as related lo Low Birth Weight (LBW). However, there were significant differences between the two groups in the distribution of some variables which may be associated with IUGR in this study population. This includes: previous delivery of LBW. decrease in the gestational age  $\leq 38$  weeks", smoking as well as periodontal health status. Periodontal health status was negatively associated with IUGR independent of other risk factors. **Con-clusion:** Data of the present study showed that there showed that there is a strong association between maternal periodontal health status and intrauterine growth retardation, even after controlling for mul-tiple contributing factors.