



TITLE: Pregnant women's knowledge of obstetrical danger signs: A cross-sectional survey in Kigali, Rwanda

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ABSTRACT (up to 300 words)

BIOGRAPHY (up to 200 words)

BACKGROUND: Maternal mortality remains critically high worldwide, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Rwanda's leading causes of maternal death include postpartum hemorrhage and obstructed labor. Maternal recognition of obstetrical danger signs is critical for timely access to emergency care to reduce maternal mortality.

OBJECTIVE: To assess the knowledge of obstetrical danger signs among pregnant women attending antenatal care in Kigali, Rwanda.

METHODS: A cross-sectional study was conducted between September and December 2018 at five health centers and one district hospital in Kigali, Rwanda. Pregnant women attending antenatal care (ANC) services completed a structured questionnaire. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics.

RESULTS: A total of 382 pregnant women were included in the study. Most women (67.8%) were aged 23-35 years, and 44.5% had completed secondary education. Almost half (43.2%) reported traveling more than 30 minutes to reach the health facility; only 23.3% were within 15 minutes of the health facility. Over half (57%) reported attending three or more ANC visits during pregnancy. The majority (85.6%) knew at least one obstetrical danger sign, with nearly half (46.1%) obtaining knowledge of danger signs from midwives and nurses.

CONCLUSION: Knowledgeability was significantly associated with the parity and number of ANC visits, though CHW was also a good source of information for pregnant women. We encourage a systematically designed curriculum to teach mothers during their follow-up visits for ANC.

Dr. Emmanuel Uwiringiyimana completed his Bachelor of medicine degree at the age of 29 years from the University of Rwanda. He is the head of the Accident and Emergency department at ruli district hospital, a community hospital based in the village, and also head of Isange One-Stop Center in charge of Gender-based violence from 2021 till today. He is a researcher and has now published five articles. He worked for different companies and institutions in the country, including the Ministry of Health – Rwanda, Rwanda Biomedical Center, and the University of Rwanda. The additional positions he had and other research projects.



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