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## Trials of improved practices (TIPs) to enhance the dietary and iron-folate intake during pregnancy: A quasi experimental study in a rural area of India

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Objective: To examine the effectiveness of 'Trials of Improved Practices' (TIPs) on dietary and iron-folate intake during pregnancy.

Design: Community based quasi experimental study with a control group.

Setting: Four villages of Chiraigaon Community Development Block of Varanasi, India from May 2010-April 2011.

Participants: Pregnant women in 13-28 weeks of gestation.

**Intervention:** TIPs was implemented in addition to ongoing essential obstetric care services in two villages through 3 home (assessment, negotiation and evaluation) visits and only assessment and evaluation visits in the other two. Interpersonal communication, endorsing active participation of family members and home based reminder materials were the TIPs strategies. The effect of TIPs was assessed by comparing key outcome variables at baseline and after 12 weeks of intervention.

**Results:** 86 women participated. At the end, mean hemoglobin levels were  $11.5\pm1.24$  g/dl and  $10.37\pm1.38$  g/dl in the TIPs and control groups, respectively. The prevalence of anemia reduced by half in TIPs group and increased by 2.4% in the control group. Weight gain (grams/week) was significantly (p<0.01) higher in TIPs group (326.9±91.8 vs. 244.6±97.4). More than 85% of the women in TIPs group were compliant for Iron-folate (38% in control). More than 2/3rds of women in TIPs group were taking one extra meal (1/3rd in controls).

**Conclusion:** TIPs improved the nutritional status of pregnant women in the study area. TIPs strategy could be further explored on larger sample representing different socio-cultural and geographical areas.

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## Healthy food for decreasing the risk of age-related disorders

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A ge-induced medical disorders are modern problems in medicine and have become a focal point for public health concern due to the aging of the world population. The main barrier for solving this problem is, in the literature available for us, the absence of a reliable, universal biomarker for detection of the functional state of the whole organism though there are different methods for detection of the functional state of individual organs. We believe that metabolic controlling of cell hydration could serve as a universal biomarker for estimation of the effect of different chemical and physical factors, including food and drinking water, on the functional state of the organism. In our previous study it was shown that cell pathology, including aging, leads to the dysfunction of  $Na^+/K^+$ -ATPase  $\alpha 3$  isoform-dependent intracellular signaling system controlling cell hydration. Therefore, we suggest that activation of  $\alpha 3$  isoform-dependent cell hydration could serve as a marker for estimation of bioavailability of food and drinking water. For this purpose elaboration of a new non-invasive device with corresponding software for detection of muscle hydration based on frequency-dependent characteristics of muscle impedance is suggested. The experimental data that prove our suggestion will be demonstrated in the lecture.

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