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## Utilization of partograph and associated factors among obstetric care givers at government hospitals of southern Ethiopia

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**Background:** In spite of government commitment in reduction of maternal death by three-quarters over the period of 1990 to 2015, maternal mortality ratio is remained high in Ethiopia, estimated at 420/100,000 live births. Even though; majority of maternal death which occurred as result of obstructed and prolonged labors are preventable by using simple and inexpensive preprinted paper of partograph for intra partum managements; the level of partograph usage and factors associated in the study area is not well known.

**Methods:** Quantitative study was conducted between March 2015 to December 2015 to assess partograph usage and associated factors among obstetric care in southern Ethiopia using a structured self-administered questionnaire and retrospective document review by using abstraction format. The collected data was analyzed using SPSS version 20.0. Logistic regression analysis was used to identify factors associated with utilization of partograph among obstetric care givers.

**Results:** The quality of training for midwives is poor due to inadequate exposure to clinical implementation of partograph, an increased number of students to accompany practice and they have no adequate exposure to practice, using different monitoring tools like clinical records, monitoring charts, piece of papers is common and health workers think it is time consuming to plot on partograph and also because of unavailability of partograph paper. Lack of knowledge is the main hindering factors for partograph usage in addition providers' attitudes have the potential impact on both partograph usage and the ability to sustain high-quality, effective use of it at a health facility.

**Conclusions:** Participant's knowledge, profession, attitude towards partograph utilization, small number of staffs and using other monitoring tools were factors affecting partograph utilization. Provision of on-job training monitor all laboring mothers with partograph rather than other monitoring tools that lack the parameters of partograph. There is a need to strengthen provision of quality pre service trainings with adequate exposure and favorable environment for clinical practices.

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## Screening of blood levels of mercury, cadmium, and copper in pregnant women in Dakahlia, Egypt: New attention to an old problem

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Heavy metal toxicity is a prevalent health problem particularly in developing countries. Mercury and cadmium are toxic elements that have no physiologic functions in human body. They should not be present in the human body by any concentration. Copper, on the other hand, is one of the elements that are essential for normal cell functions and a deficiency as well as an excess of which can cause adverse health effects. This study was done to test blood levels of mercury, cadmium, and copper in pregnant women in Dakahlia, Egypt. Using atomic absorption spectrophotometry, blood levels of cadmium, mercury, and copper were measured in 150 pregnant women attending to the antenatal care in Mansoura University Hospital in Dakahlia governorate, Egypt. The mean  $\pm$ SD of blood mercury, cadmium, and copper levels were found to be far from their levels in the population surveys carried in developed countries like United States of America (USA) and Canada. Heavy metal intoxication and accumulation is a major health hazard. Developing countries, including Egypt, still lack many of the regulatory policies and legislations to control sources of pollution exposure. This should be dealt with in order to solve this problem and limit its health consequences.

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