

## PS1.271

### **The attitudes and behaviours of pregnant women against smoking**

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**Background & Aim:** The aim of this study is to identify the cause of differences in attitudes and behaviors toward smoking between the smoker and non smoker pregnant women during pregnancy.

**Method:** A cross-sectional study was performed on 494 postpartum women who visited the primary care clinics in the city of Izmir. Mothers were assessed in the 6 months after delivery. A questionnaire consisting of questions about socio-demographic background and attitudes (obtained from focus groups) divided in four subscales, each assessing different aspects of women opinion; was applied. Each attitude answer consisted of a datapoint on a 1-5 likert scale (1=strongly disagree, 3=undecided, 5=strongly agree). Internal consistency were assessed using the Cronbach's alpha in 96 postpartum women. A value of  $\geq 0.70$  was considered as acceptable.

**Results:** The mean age was  $27.0 \pm 4.8$  years. A total of 15.2% of pregnant women continued smoking throughout their pregnancy, while 51.3% of women who were smokers before pregnancy quit smoking after they found out they were pregnant. Factors associated with smoking throughout pregnancy were; low educational attainment, mother's age above 30 who were smokers before pregnancy, married to a smoker, more frequent exposure to environmental tobacco ( $<0.05$ ). Pregnant smokers had significantly lower scores on most of the scale. On the whole; participants did not support pregnant smokers. Being married to a current smoker was the most important reason why pregnant women smoked. They believed they were unsuccessful to quit smoking because having low willingness but If they thought smoking during pregnancy can cause maternal and neonatal damage they quitted (median: 5; 4; 5; 5; 5 respectively).

**Conclusions:** A considerable number of pregnant women continued to smoke. They were not in agreement with non-smokers and quitters about the cause of smoking; while they had lower scores on different aspects of women opinions.