Prevalence of Gestational Anemia and its Association with Adequacy of Prenatal Care in Vespasiano, Brazil
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PROJECT BACKGROUND
- Previous GHI multidisciplinary teams have conducted research focusing on an evaluation of prenatal care in the municipality of Vespasiano, in Minas Gerais, Brazil.
- Although there is provision for universal prenatal care in Brazil, inadequate usage of these services in terms of initiation (gestational age at first visit) and frequency (number of visits) have been observed nationally, and in this specific municipality.
- The risk factors associated with inadequate prenatal care in Vespasiano have been studied. However, the health consequences that could possibly be associated with this underutilization had not been investigated.
- Gestational anemia is globally the most common nutritional problem during pregnancy. However, its prevalence and possible association with inadequate prenatal care had not been studied in Vespasiano.

AIMS
- Quantify the prevalence of gestational anemia (Hb<11g/dL) in 2012 adult pregnancies of Vespasiano have been studied. However, the health consequences that could possibly be associated with this underutilization had not been investigated.
- Gestational anemia is globally the most common nutritional problem during pregnancy. However, its prevalence and possible association with inadequate prenatal care had not been studied in Vespasiano.

METHODOLOGY
- Study design: retrospective cross-sectional study
- Data Sources: prenatal care cards (cartão da gestante) and clinic charts (ficha da controle individual)
- Variables: gestational age at first visit (exposure), number of visits (exposure), hemoglobin value (outcome) as well as age, literacy and marital status when available (covariates)

PRELIMINARY RESULTS
- Prevalence of Gestational Anemia in adult pregnancies of 2012 was 5.8% (6 cases out of 103).
- 9.7% of pregnant women had their first prenatal care visit after the 4th month of pregnancy (inadequate initiation) while 29.1% had less than 6 visits (inadequate frequency).
- Associations of Gestational Anemia with Adequacy of Initiation and Frequency of Prenatal Care

DISSEMINATION
- Written report and oral presentation of preliminary results to the Secretariat of Health of Vespasiano
- Short written report of preliminary results to community health workers and nurses that helped make sampling and data collection from prenatal cards and clinic charts possible

NEXT STEPS
- Further data analysis: logistic regression model using only cartão da gestante data which has covariates
- Preparation of manuscript for publication in collaboration with Brazilian partners
- Future studies on gestational anemia and prenatal care in adolescents, a particularly high risk group

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