ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Mothers Knowledge Toward Correct Infant Sleep Practices and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome In Al-Najaf Provence

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doctors were the main information source they used to learn about SIDS.

ABSTRACT

Objective: "The current study aims to assess the proportion of newborns that sleep well and investigates the awareness and comprehension of SIDS and its associated risk factors among mothers of infants in Al Najaf Provence".

Methodology: In order to accomplish the study's goals, a descriptive cross-sectional study was used throughout. The study took place between November 2021 and February 2022. a Non-Probability (Purposive Sample) of 100 moms who arrived with infants (under 1 year old) at the Hospital for Maternity and Children and the primary healthcare facilities in Al-Najaf Provence. **Results**: The study's findings revealed that (49%) of newborns were found to be sleeping on their sides, (37%) were found to be dozing off, and (14%) were found to be sleeping on their prone backs. Participants as a whole (60%) stated that (40%) child

Conclusion: In our study, women had limited understanding about sudden infant death syndrome, and a substantial percentage of them were unaware that smoking exposure during pregnancy and after delivery had been linked to an elevated risk of SIDS. In our study, a large percentage of moms were unaware that giving their babies pacifiers while they slept reduced the risk of SIDS.

Keywords: knowledge, mother, sudden infant death syndrome.

INTRODUCTION

The diagnosis of sudden infant death syndrome, which is defined as the unexplained abrupt death of a child less than one year, requires a thorough investigation, a detailed autopsy, a review of the patient's medical history, and an assessment of the death site. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Sudden Baby Death Syndrome (SIDS) is the third leading cause of baby mortality in the US (CDC) (1,2,3). Suffocation, which is thought to be the largest cause of unintentional death in children under the age of one, is one important component that contributes to SIDS (4). When the child is positioned in a posture that precludes breathing, infant mortality from suffocation occurs. As a result, the sleep environment and positioning have a significant preventative impact on lowering the annual rate of SIDS, a type of sudden unexpected infant death (SUID). According to CDC diagnostic standards, the majority of SUIDs are classified as one of three forms of newborn demise: unexplained cause, unintentional asphyxiation in bed, and strangling. SIDS make up almost 50% of SUDS (5,6). Guidelines for newborn safe sleep are not always followed by communities, and parents who worry about their child's comfort, choking risks, and conflicting medical advice frequently reject them. One of the main causes of postnatal mortality as well as newborn mortality in the United States is sudden infant death. Due to worries about infant comfort, suffocation, and inconsistent guidance from healthcare professionals, recommendations for safe newborn sleep have not been regularly accepted in the community and are frequently rejected by parents.

Additionally, the majority of baby deaths in Iraq are attributable to well-known factors like pneumonia, preterm, infections, and cardiovascular abnormalities; unknown factors have not yet been identified. SIDS are not well-known in Iraq, despite the syndrome being recognized on a global scale since 1960. This can be the result of insufficient SIDS research. Additionally, from generation to generation, guidelines for safe sleeping habits have drastically changed ⁽⁷⁾. Therefore, in Al-Najaf Provence, this study was carried out to evaluate mothers' knowledge of appropriate infant sleep practices and sudden infant death syndrome. This will reveal mother knowledge gaps and act as a model for local healthcare professionals to give health information regarding SIDS.

METHODOLOGY

In order to accomplish the study's goals, a descriptive crosssectional study was used throughout. The study took place between November 2021 and February 2022. A Non-Probability (Purposive Sample) of 100 mothers presenting to Hospital for Maternity and Children and the primary health care centers with

infants (< 1 year of age). The self-administered questionnaire was created to evaluate the mothers' general knowledge about SIDS and the newborn sleep habits they had adopted. Three sections make up the questionnaire. The first part of the questionnaire asks about the parents' demographics, the second part asks about how the infant sleeps, The third portion also inquires about parents' understanding of SIDS, its risk factors, and their awareness of them. Additionally, revisions were made to the questionnaire's words based on the advice and observations of specialists. The final study tool is divided into three sections. a. Demographic Information A demographic data sheet has the following two sections: (A) Information about the parents includes the following: mother's age, place of residence, mother's occupation, monthly income, and whether any of the parents smoke. (B) Child information includes the following: age of the child, gender, whether this is your first child, whether the child was born preterm (less than 37 weeks) or with low birth weight (less than 2.5 kg), whether the child has a birth defect, and finally, the type of milk. Section 2: Sleep hygieneThe second section of the questionnaire has 18 items and is titled "Part 3: SIDS Questions." The third section of the survey has three items, including. After their infants had been attended to, each mother was interviewed by a researcher while seated comfortably in the consulting area of the hospital and the primary healthcare facilities. The researchers read the questions to them, and their answers were entered into the proforma. The period of data collecting was from November 2021 to February 2022. Each subject needs about 15 to 20 minutes to finish the interview. The statistical package (SPSS) ver. (22), as well as Microsoft Excel (2010), are used to analyze data:The study's findings are analyzed and evaluated using the statistical data analysis techniques listed below:Standard Deviations (SD), Means (x), Frequencies (F), Percentages (%), and Means of $Score^{(8-21)}$.

RESULTS

The sociodemographic profile of the Infants is displayed in Table (1). Infants ranged in age from 9.3 to 6.3 months on average. Regarding the gender of the newborns, (58%) boys and (42%) females were present. For (53%), the participating newborn was the participant's first kid, and for (47%) of the infants, it was not.Regarding preterm births, 78 percent of babies were not born preterm, 17 percent were, and 5 percent were uncertain. (42%) said exclusively nursing, (27%) exclusively formula feeding, and (31%) both two feeding methods.

lable 1: statistical distribution of	socio-demographic pro	offie of the li	ntants.
socio-demographic profile of the Infants		Freq.	%
Infant's Age (Months)	<= 3	14	14
	4 – 6	27	27
	7 – 9	24	24
	10 and More	35	35
	Mean±SD	9.3±6.3	
abilid a secondary	Male	58	58
child s gender	Female	42	42
:- th:	Yes	53	53
is this your first child	No	47	47
was your child born preterm	Yes	17	17
	No	78	78
	I don't Know	5	5
Describes abilidately and district	Yes	12	12
Does the child take medicine for gastroesophageal reflux disease	No	83	83
gastroesopriagear reliux disease	I'm Not Sure	5	5
What kind of milk did you giveyour	just mother's breast milk	42	42
baby during the first two months of	just formula milk	27	27
life or do you intend to?	Both	31	31
Total		100	100%

Table 2: statistical breakdown of the participating infants' sleep habits

Sleep practice	breakdown or the part	Freq	%
Q1	Prone	14	14
	Supine	37	37
	Side	49	49
Q2	Υ	21	21
	N	79	79
Q3	Υ	99	99
	N	1	1
Q4	Υ	16	16
	N	84	84
Q5	Y	89	89
	N	11	11
00	Υ	60	60
Q6	N	40	40
Q7	Y	76	76
Q7	N	24	24
Q8	Υ	15	15
Qo	N	85	85
Q9	Υ	72	72
Q9	N	28	28
Q10	Υ	55	55
QIU	N	45	45
Q11	Υ	25	25
QII	N	75	75
040	Υ	73	73
Q12	N	27	27
042	Y	37	37
Q13	N	63	63
Q14	Υ	21	21
	N	79	79
Q15	Υ	23	23
	N	77	77
Q16	Υ	16	16
	N	84	84

Table 3: Assessment of knowledge toward risk factors of SIDS

knowledge evalua factors	tion of SIDS risk	Fre q	%	Mean±SD	Assess.	
Alternative to supine sleeping	Υ	53	53		Accepted awareness	
	N	10	10	4.29±2.01		
	I'm Not Sure	37	37			
Soft furnishings	Υ	64	64		Accepted awareness	
and airy	N	11	11	4.59±2.07		
bedding	I'm Not Sure	25	25		awareness	
pacifier use	Υ	45	45		Not aware	
during naps	N	32	32	3.39±2.62		
and at bedtime	I'm Not Sure	23	23			
Head covering	Υ	81	81		Accepted awareness	
and	N	9	9	5.16±1.86		
overheating	I'm Not Sure	10	10			
Having the	Υ	81	81		Accepted awareness	
infant in bed	N	15	15	4.98±2.18		
with you	I'm Not Sure	4	4			
Smoking during	Υ	46	46			
pregnancy and	N	19	19	3.81±2.29	Not aware	
after delivery	I'm Not Sure	35	35			
Overall Knowledge Assess.	Not aware	28	28			
	Accepted	52	52	4.37±1.3	Accepted	
	awareness			7.57 £1.5	awareness	
	Fully aware	20	20			
Total		100	100%			

The infants who participated in the study's sleep practices are shown in Table (2). Infants slept in three different positions: supine (37%) and prone (14%) for 49 (side), 37 (supine), and 14 (prone), respectively.

The knowledge assessment of SIDS risk factors is shown in Table 3. The least knowledge score was 0, the maximum was 6, and the average was 4.371.3. Regarding the knowledge classification, (28%) were not aware since they received a score of three or less (half).

Table 4: the elements linked to prior knowledge of SIDS

Socio demographic factors		Have you ever heard about (SIDS)		P-value	
		Yes	No		
Mother's Age (Years)	<= 25	26	24		
	26 – 30	27	7	0.015*	
	31 and more	7	9		
Residence	Urban	39	29	0.431	
	Rural	21	11		
	Uneducated	4	7		
highest degree of	Elementary school	11	7		
education for the	the middle school	10	10	0.359	
mother of the	Secondary school	9	3	0.339	
child	College	25	12		
	Postgraduate	1	1		
	Uneducated	1	4		
	Elementary school	6	7		
highest degree of education for the	the middle school	8	7	0.23	
father of the child	Secondary school	11	4		
lather of the child	College	32	16		
	Postgraduate	2	2		
mums' line of	Working	29	9	0.000+	
work	Not working (Housewife)	31	31	0.009*	
Monthly income	Sufficient	34	13		
from the point of	Sufficient to some extent	22	15	0.004*	
view sample	Insufficient	4	12		
	<= 3	5	9	0.194	
Infant's Age	4 – 6	19	8		
(Months)	7 – 9	15	9		
	10 and More	21	14		
child s gender	Male	32	26	2.24	
	Female	28	14	0.24	
is this your first	Yes	30	23	0.400	
child	No	30	17	0.462	
was your child born preterm	Yes	9	8	0.48	
	No	49	29	l	

DISCUSSION

Several programs, such as the "back to sleep" campaigns that advised parents to keep their children in upright postures and away from swaddling, smoking, and overheating, significantly decreased the risk of SIDS in all Western nations where these initiatives were put into place (22,23) . A poll of 4,319 Japanese parents of a newborn child revealed that nearly all (96.7%) of them avoided putting their babies to sleep on their stomachs (22). Nearly all parents preferred the supine position exclusively, however only 81.4% were aware that the prone position was thought to be a risk factor for SIDS. In Turkey, 46.7% of households routinely put their kids to bed on their backs. (24) . Data about SIDS in developing countries are limited (25) . When putting their babies to sleep, moms in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) favored the supine position over other positions 72.2% of the time (26). It is yet unknown how often SIDS occurs among infants in Iraq. 37% of the mothers used the supine posture, which is the only proper sleeping position⁽²⁷⁾.

Previous research have indicated that side-lying newborns are more likely to die from SIDS than back-lying infants, contrary to what was once believed to be the safer practice of putting infants to sleep on their sides (28) . The most common position for babies to sleep in is on their side, which puts them at a higher risk for SIDS. This is similar to the 51.8% in the Ibeziako study in Enugu regarding the actual choice of sleeping position made by mothers. In our study, 49% of infants to mothers occasionally slept on their side, which put them at a higher risk for SIDS (29), primarily because the infant was more at ease.

37% of babies were typically laid in the supine position. In the experiments of Okpere and Ibeziako, this was comparable to 18.1% and 21.5%. $^{(30)}$. In this study, 14% of participants slept prone, which was substantially less than the 44.3% recorded in Okpere's study and the 26.7% reported in Ibeziako's study, both of which were conducted in the South-South and South-East regions of the country, which are home to the Igbo ethnic group primarily $^{(29)}$.

In this study, newborn supine positioning was reported at a rate of 37%, which is lower than the 46% reported in America by Yikilkan ⁽³²⁾ and the 61% recorded in Turkey by Van Kohorn ⁽²²⁾ indicated that the prone sleeping posture was 17%, which is higher than the 14% found in this study. Age of the mother, the mother's educational level, her residence, her socioeconomic situation, and her knowledge of SIDS were not found to be significantly correlated.

In the past, it was discovered that babies who slept in beds with parents or other caregivers who smoked were more likely to experience SIDS (34,35) . However, a number of research indicate that bedsharing is a risk factor in and of itself, even in the absence of paternal or mother smoking (36) . No epidemiological research indicates that sharing a bed has any protective benefits. As a result, bed-sharing should not be promoted as a strategy to lower the risk of SIDS. According to reports, 16% of parental girlfriends in Turkey share a bed ^(37, 38).In a recent research, 76% of mothers reported that they never put their newborns to sleep in a room apart from their parents or other carers (39) . According to our survey, 28% of moms are unaware that smoking during pregnancy and after delivery increases the likelihood that their child may experience SIDS. Soft pillows, mattresses, and crib padding(40). The risk is increased by the interaction of several risk factors. For instance, lying prone on soft bedding 20 times as likely to result in SIDS $^{(41)}$. Most of the time, 73% of mothers swaddle their newborns. An increased risk of SIDS is linked to hotter surroundings, higher body temperatures, sweating, overheating from too-heavy clothing and bedding (38,42). In the United Arab Emirates, more than 80% of families used parenting techniques that could cause overheating, such as using duvets in the summer, keeping the house at a comfortable temperature, dressing too warmly, etc $^{(23)}$. Even when the pacifier is taken out of the baby's mouth, pacifiers have been found to have a protective impact (43). According to the current survey, 28% of moms were not aware that their children were sleeping with pacifiers in. Her SIDS has been demonstrated to be prevented by breastfeeding, and this impact is stronger when breastfeeding is used exclusively (1) Only 42% of the participating women exclusively nursed, 27% exclusively used formula, and 31% used both continuous nursing and formula. Even still, the findings of the assessment of the degree of awareness of SIDS risk factors were dismal, with just 28% having no awareness, 52% having an inadequate level of awareness, and 20% having a perfect understanding. The importance of implementing educational interventions campaigns to raise public awareness of safe sleeping patterns and lower other risk factors for SIDS is highlighted by this knowledge gap among mothers in the Al-Najaf Provence. 202 pregnant women in France took part in a study that found 94.6% of them had heard about SIDS before(22). The percentage of mothers who are aware of SIDS is almost higher than the survey's 60% threshold.40% of pediatricians were responsible for the majority of the knowledge concerning SIDS, while 14% came from media sources.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, little is known about sudden infant death syndrome in mothers from our study. Most of the knowledge about SIDS came from pediatricians, but very little from media platforms. There were no significant associations with mother's age, child's mother's highest educational level, place of residence, or socioeconomic status with relation to SIDS knowledge Our study demonstrates that a significant fraction of moms are ignorant of the link between smoking exposure during pregnancy and postpartum and an elevated risk of SIDS. In our study, a sizable portion of moms were

not aware that giving their baby a pacifier while they slept reduced the risk of SIDS. Non-supine sleeping postures and bed-sharing, both of which are connected with an increased risk of SIDS and An increased risk of SIDS is linked to higher frequencies of women utilizing soft mattresses, pillows, and cot buffers for baby cribs.

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