

Risk Factors and Complications Associated with Tuberculosis in Pregnancy and Neonates in Limpopo Province, South Africa

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ABSTRACT Basic Antenatal Care (BANC) was introduced in Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities in order to reduce the burden of consistently high maternal and neonatal mortality rate. The study identified risk factors and described complications associated with TB in pregnant mothers and neonates. A quantitative and descriptive research design was used to collect data at ten selected hospitals in Limpopo Province. Sample size of 150 Medical maternity case records was randomly selected. Records were assessed and analysed using checklist. The findings revealed socio-economic problems such as poverty and HIV/AIDS infections as the major risk factors associated with TB in pregnancy. Complications such as eclampsia and low birth weight in mothers and neonates were revealed. There is higher rate of HIV/AIDS infection among pregnant mothers with TB. Emphasis needs to be placed on strengthening the integration and implementation of PMTCT, TB/HIV in BANC services, and continue to build on past achievements.