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Title of Thesis: Assessment of Risk Factors for Fetal Congenital Anomalies Among Pregnant Women at El-Manial University Hospital

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Abstract : **Background,** congenital anomaly is a defect that is present at birth, and can result from either genetic, environmental factors, or both. **Aim,** was to assess the risk factors which may lead to fetal congenital anomalies. **Design,** a descriptive research design was adopted. **Sample,** a total of 265 pregnant women were recruited according to the following criteria: pregnant in a fetus with a congenital anomaly; at any reproductive age; no specific gravidity or parity; single or multiple gestations. **Setting,** Fetal Medicine Unit at El-Manial University Hospital. **Tools,** two tools were constructed and filled in by the researcher: 1) fetal assessment sheet 2) interviewing questionnaire schedule. **Results,** age range of the pregnant women was 17-44 years with a mean of 26.63 ± 5.37 years. Seventeen percent of them cannot read and write while, 20% had university education. Renal anomalies, central nervous system (CNS), musculoskeletal, and cardiovascular anomalies were the most common congenital anomalies constituted 36.6%, 34.7%, 20.8%, 10.6% respectively of the total anomalies. Regarding to risk factors for congenital anomalies, 45.7% of the pregnant women had first degree consanguinity, 16.6% had a family history of a congenital anomalies, 19.2% had a previous child with a congenital anomalies, 29.1% gave a history of consuming drugs during present pregnancy, 18.5% of the pregnant women live near industrial source and 21.5% of them experienced infection during present pregnancy. **Conclusion,** renal, CNS and musculoskeletal anomalies were the most common type of congenital anomalies. Positive consanguinity, family history for congenital anomalies, previous child with a congenital anomaly, consuming drugs during pregnancy, living near industrial source and exposure to infections during pregnancy, were the most common risk factors associated with congenital anomalies. **Recommendations,** premarital examination for consanguineous marriages should be encouraged. Antenatal care is very important for suspicion and early detection of congenital anomalies.

Keywords:

Risk factors; Congenital anomalies; Pregnant woman.