Hypertensive disorders during pregnancy: Are we giving enough attention?
Rahat Ara Nur, Kanij Sultana, Sharif Hossain
Population Council

BACKGROUND

HYPERTENSIVE DISORDERS DURING PREGNANCY (HDP) IN BANGLADESH
• Second leading direct cause of maternal death
• 1,200 women die each year of PE/E
• 32% of women age 35 and older are hypertensive
• Lack of information on HDP

OBJECTIVES
• Assess HDP programs, policy support, and consequences for pregnancy and maternal and newborn outcomes
• Analyze gaps in provider competence for preventing, detecting, and managing HDP
• Determine facility readiness for managing HDP

METHODS
• Cross-sectional survey with 289 service providers from 134 facilities
• Facility inventory assessment in 134 health centers
• 268 client providers interactions and 268 exit client interviews during antenatal (ANC) consultations
• 50 in-depth interviews with program managers
• Data entry was conducted using CSPro and analyzed using SPSS

RESULTS

SERVICE PROVIDERS’ KNOWLEDGE OF HDP
Three hypothetical situations related to HDP presented:

a) Pregnant woman seen at ANC clinic at 30 weeks gestation with blood pressure (BP) 180/115 mmHg and proteinuria of 2++
b) Woman 12 weeks pregnant at ANC with BP 160/100 mmHg with no proteinuria
c) Pregnant woman with hypertension and significant proteinuria at 30 weeks gestation. One week later, her partner brought her back with convulsions

KNOWLEDGE OF INITIATING ANTIHYPERTENSIVES TO CONTROL AND CALCIUM TO PREVENT PE
• Providers did not know when to introduce antihypertensives in pregnant women with HDP
• Antihypertensive drugs should be initiated (≥140/90 to 159/109)
• None were able to mention calcium supplementation during pregnancy for preventing HDP

CALL TO ACTION:
All stakeholders and service providers must be aware of, and receive training on, standard operating procedures for PE/E prevention and treatment. All facilities must have relevant drugs in stock, and local leaders should raise awareness in communities on signs and symptoms of PE/E.

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