

Knowledge towards Pregnancy-induced Hypertension among Pregnant Women in Vhembe District, Limpopo Province

S. Maputle¹, L. Khoza² and R. Lebese³

Department of Advanced Nursing Science, University of Venda, Private Bag X5050, Thohoyandou, 0950, South Africa

E-mail: ¹<sonto.maputle@univen.ac.za>, ²<base.khoza@univen.ac.za>, ³<rachel.lebese@univen.ac.za>

KEYWORDS Antenatal Care. Pre-eclampsia. Gestational Hypertension. Pregnant Women. Complications

ABSTRACT Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy remain the commonest direct cause of maternal mortality in South Africa. Information about Pregnancy-induced hypertension has not reached many pregnant women in South Africa. The 2005-2007 statistics shows that there were 628 reported maternal deaths due to Pregnancy-induced hypertension. Pregnancy-induced hypertension is particularly sinister in its early stages as a woman may be totally unaware of its presence. The purpose of this study was to assess the knowledge of pregnant women towards Pregnancy-induced hypertension in Vhembe district, Limpopo province. A qualitative, exploratory approach was used. Population comprised of pregnant women who were residing at one village in Vhembe district. Non-probability, purposive and snowball sampling method was used to sample ten pregnant women. Data was collected through semi-structured in-depth interviews. Trustworthiness was ensured by considering the criteria of credibility, dependability, applicability and transferability. Data was analysed qualitatively through open coding method. The results revealed knowledge deficit about Pregnancy-induced hypertension symptoms, prevention of complications and about the impact of Pregnancy-induced hypertension on the unborn baby. Health care providers should implement the focused health education programs during antenatal visit.