

**Risk factors of preterm birth and possible determinants among the  
Palestinian women in the Northern part of the West Bank.**

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**Abstract:**

**Introduction:**

Preterm birth is the delivery of an infant before 37 weeks of gestation. It is a major public health problem. Prematurity is the leading cause of infant mortality and morbidity worldwide. The purpose of this study is to identify the risk factors of preterm birth and possible determinants among the Palestinian women in the Northern part of the West Bank.

**Methodology:**

A case control study of 100 cases of preterm delivery and 201 controls of full term delivery was carried out from three governmental hospitals in the North of the West Bank. The data was analyzed by using Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS) version 17. Frequencies, Chi-square and logistic regressions were done to explore the relation between dependent variable (preterm birth) and the other independent variables. The study took six months starting from the first of May 2011 to the thirty first of October 2012. Face to face interview using questionnaire was used.

**Result:**

This results show that the main risk factors of preterm birth were: First, multiple pregnancies ( $p=0.001$ ) (95%CI.249-.581). Second, medical indication for pregnancy termination ( $p= 0.001$ ) (95% CI 0.328- 0.617). Third, Preterm Premature Rupture of Membrane (PPROM), ( $p=0.006$ ), (95% CI 0.079- 0.462). Forth, previous history of preterm birth, ( $p=0.007$ ), (95%CI 0.049- 0.309). Fifth, disorder associated with pregnancy, ( $p= 0.015$ ) (95%, CI 0.028-0.254t). Other risk factors identified by the study are: Type of family, congenital gynecological problems, family history of preterm birth, previous delivery by Caesarean Section (CS), maternal smoking more than 10 cigarettes, vaginal bleeding during pregnancy, psychological problems, and short stature.

### **Conclusion:**

The main risk factors of preterm birth were: multiple pregnancies, medical indications for preterm birth which are mainly due to preeclampsia, placenta previa, abruption placenta, and previous caesarean section, disorder associated with pregnancy mainly hypertensive disorder preterm premature rupture of membrane, and previous history of preterm birth.

### **Key-words:**

Pregnancy, labour, Female, Premature Birth, Preterm labour