PREVALENCE OF

DENIAL OF PREGNANCY

AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS IN TURKEY

Nazan Aydın, MD, Prof.

Turkish Marce Society

GENERAL OUTLINE

1. Background
2. Objective and Hypothesis
3. Subjects and Methods
9. Results
11. Conclusion

BACKGROUND

Pregnancy Denial

Lack of awareness of *being pregnant*

during the first 20 weeks or more of gestation

BACKGROUND

Other Clinical Features

- Minor or no changes in body weight and waist size
- No perception of fetus movements
- No or minor pregnancy symptoms
- In some instances, periods are normal

BACKGROUND

Consequences

Inadequate prenatal care

- poor nutrition
- fetal abuse
- unattended or precipitous delivery

Neonatal risks

- prematurity
- low birth weight
- small for gestational age

(Neifert and Bourgois, 2000)

BACKGROUND

Overall Estimated Prevalence

- 1 in 475 pregnancies (211/100 K) (2.11‰)
- Full denial 1/2500 (40/100 K) (0.40‰)

(Wessel and Buscher, 2002)

HYPOTHESIS:

Contrary to popular belief, women who fail to recognize their pregnancy before delivery are not lying or are not mostly severely psychotic

OBJECTIVE:

Determine 1 year prevalance of denial of pregnancy and risk factors in Erzurum province

SUBJECTS AND METHODS

Duration

January 1, 2013 - January 1, 2014

Setting

All institutions with deliveries were included

Tools

Socio-demographic data form

The Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV (SCID-I)

Control Data *(Aksoy* et al. *The relationship between fear of childbirth and women's knowledge about painless childbirth. Obstetrics and Gynecology International, March, 2014).*

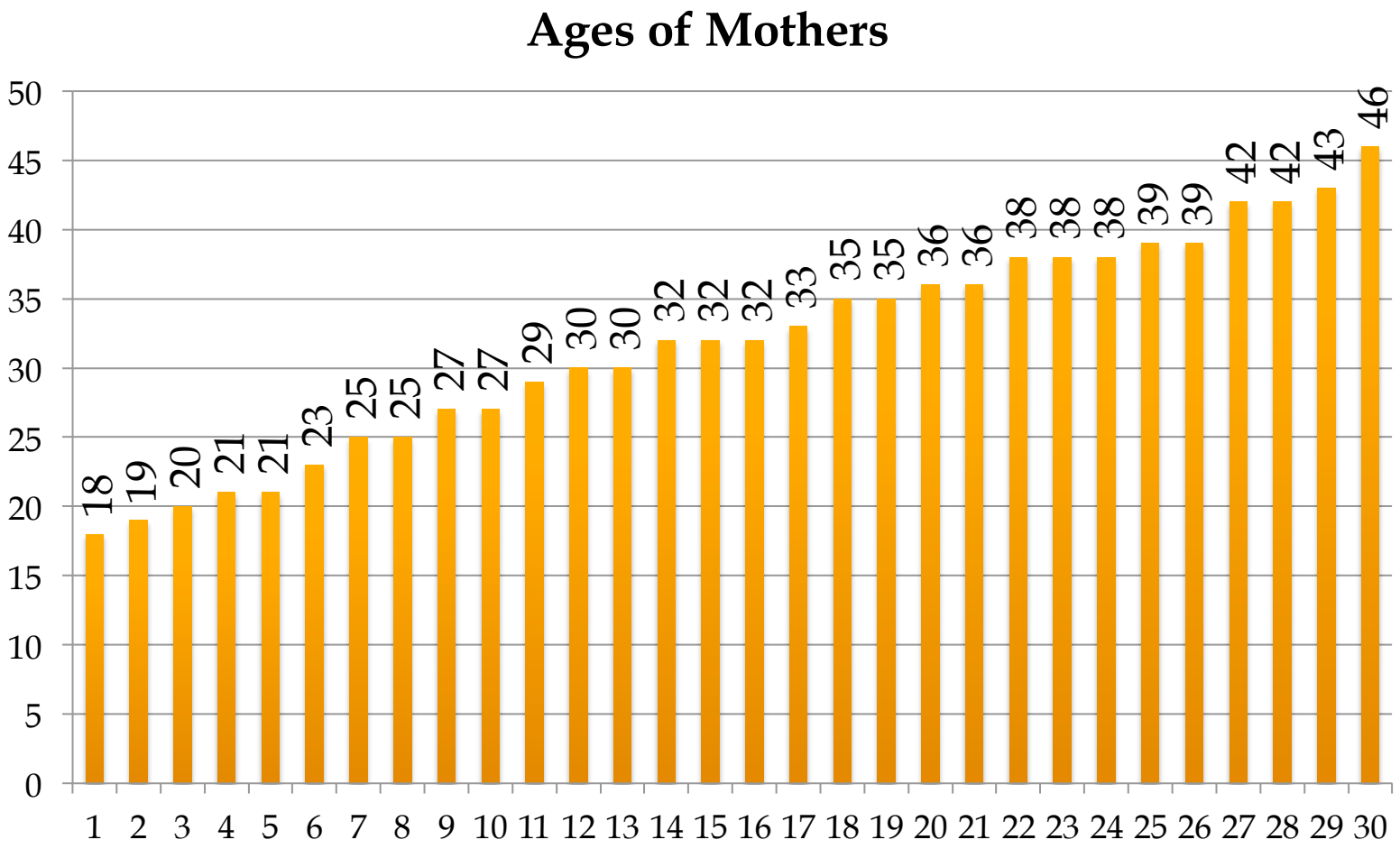
RESULTS

Prevelance of Pregnancy Denial

- 30/15792
- 1 in 526 pregnancies (1.9 ‰)

RESULTS

Socio-demographic Features

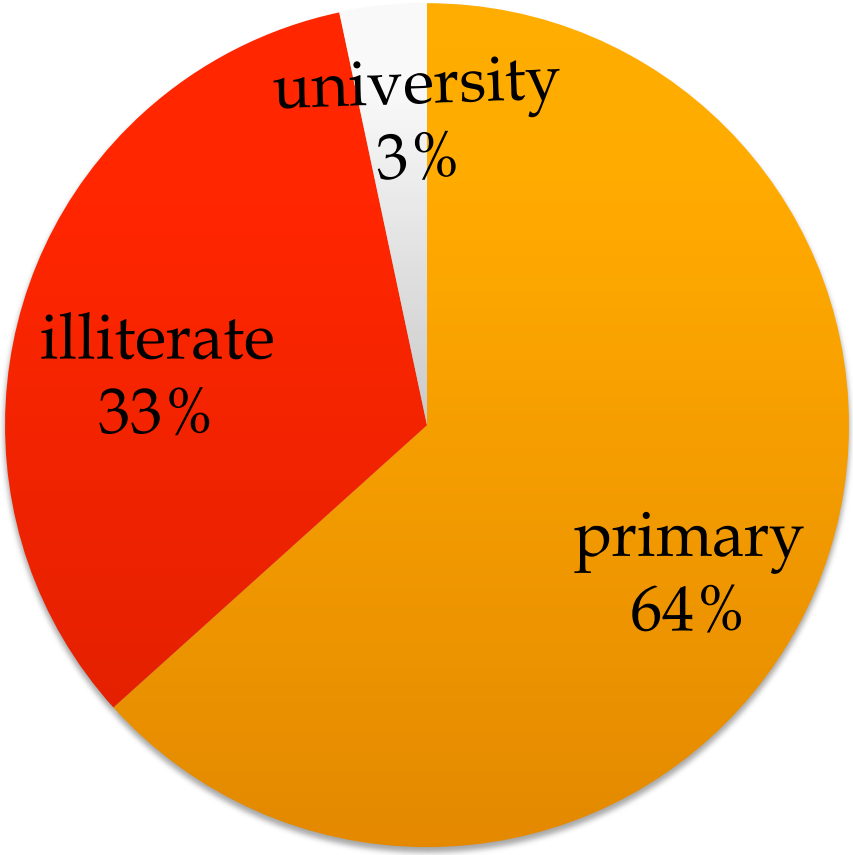


Socio-demographic Features

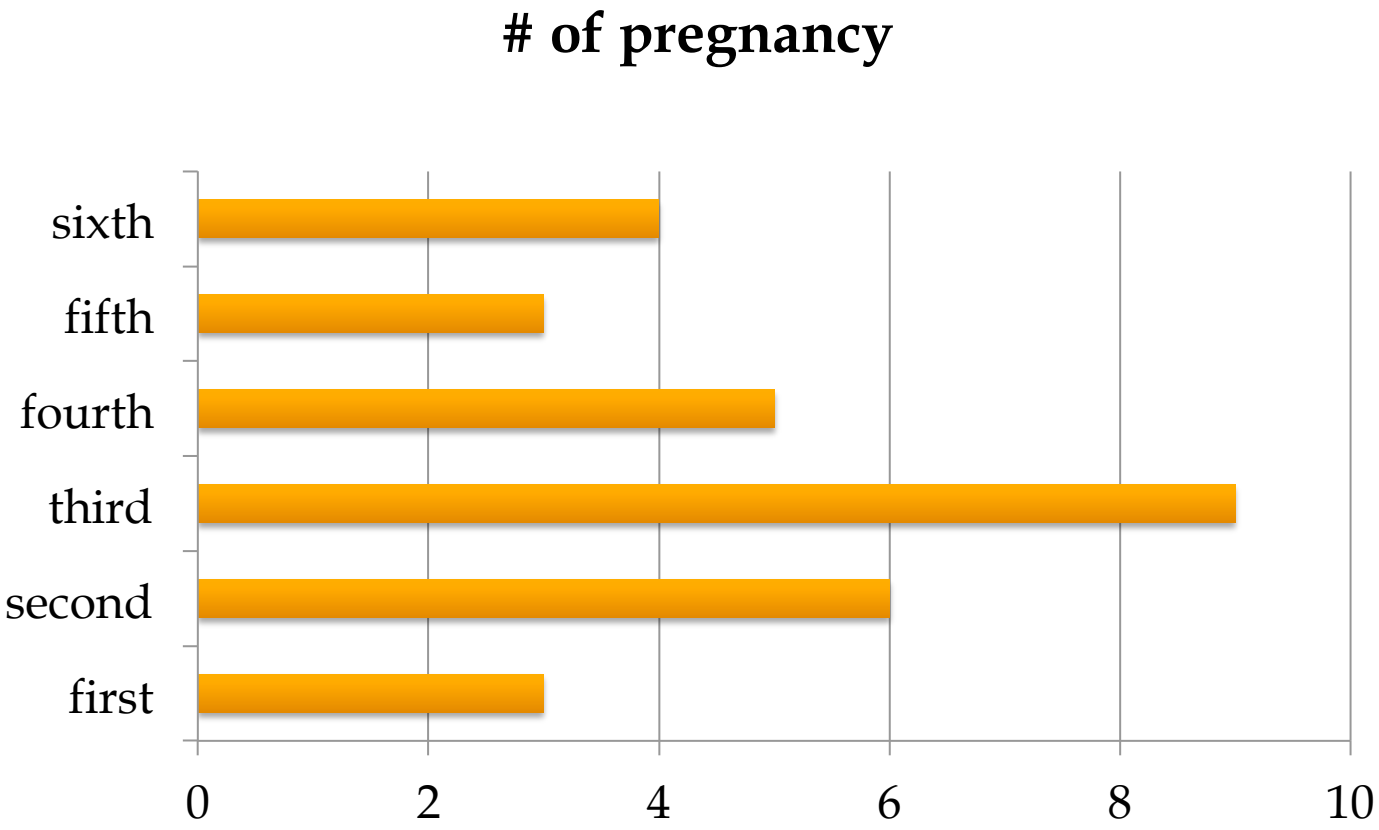
Marital status	Single	Married
	2	28

Socio-demographic Features

Education Level



Socio-demographic Features

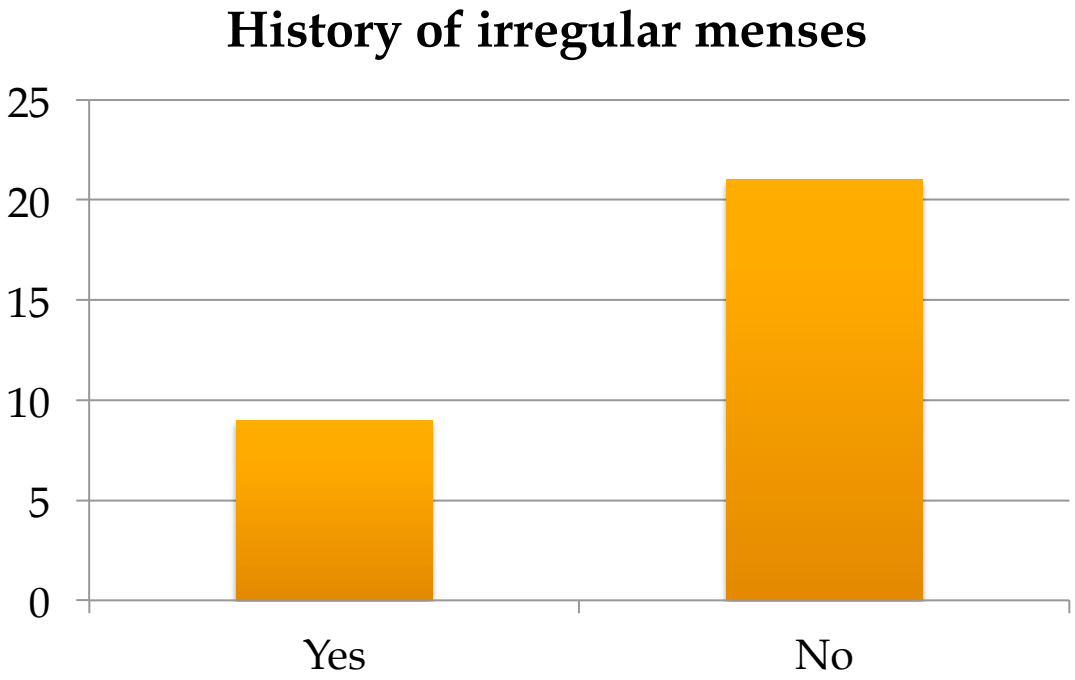


RESULTS

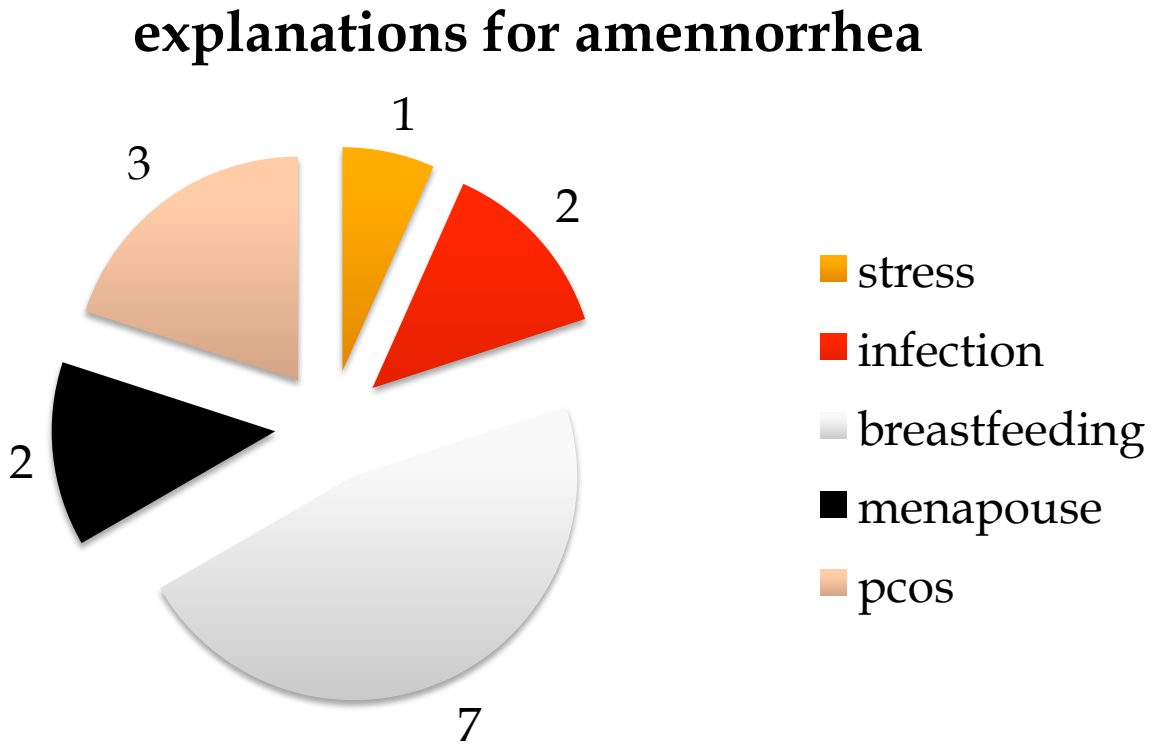
Awareness Time (weeks)	Number of cases
20	17
21	1
24	6
26	1
28	1
34	1
35	1
37	1
40	1

RESULTS

Socio-demographic Features

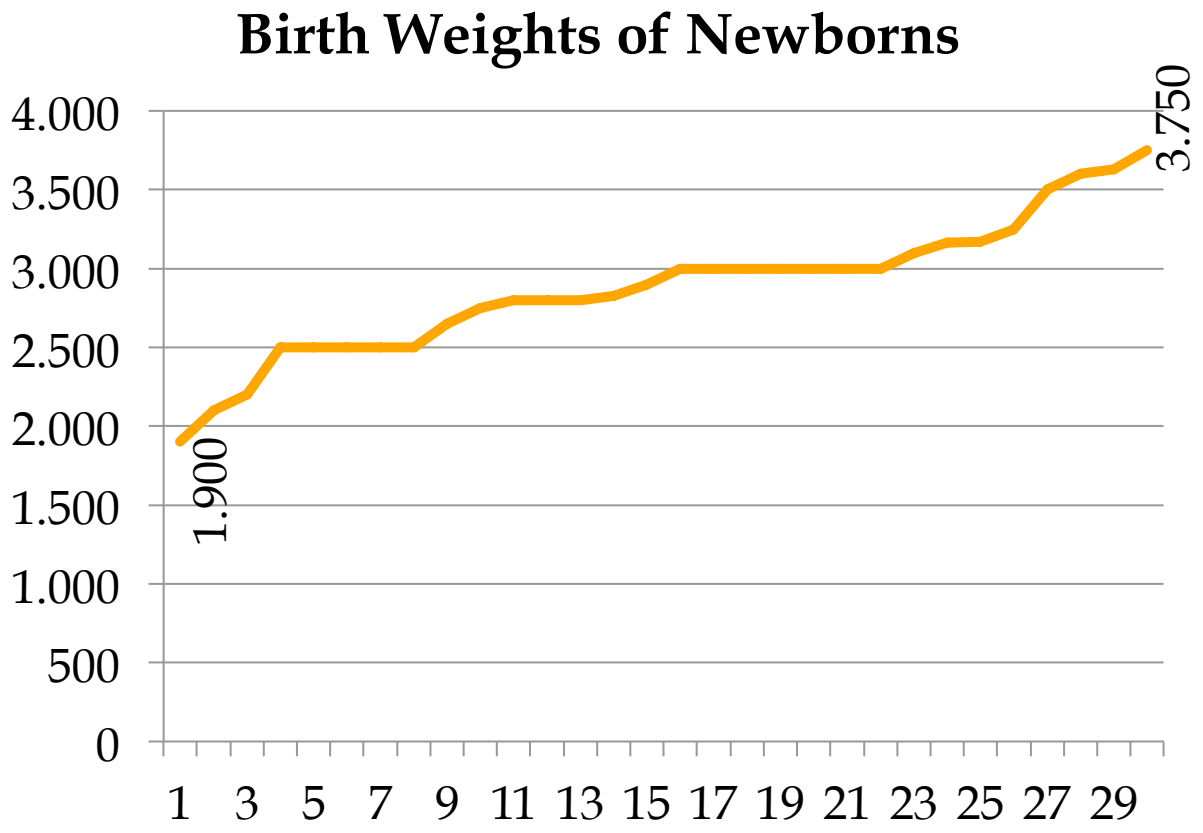


RESULTS



Half of women reported that they have had amenorrhea during gestation; others reported some bleeding in that time.

RESULTS


Birth Weights of Newborns
4.000
3.500
3.000
2.500
2.000
1.500
1.000
500
0
1.900
3.750
1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 17 19 21 23 25 27 29

Birth Related Features

Breastfeeding status	Yes	No
	18	12

RESULTS

SCID Diagnosis	Number of cases
Anxiety Disorder	5
Somatoform disorder	2
Mild Mental Retardation	1
None	22

Nine of them have had been diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder in the past (most of them were depression)

Results

	Group	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	P value
Age					
	Control	165	29,2121	4,23802	**0.012**
	Study	30	31,7000	7,80870	
BMI					
	Control	165	29,0691	3,18511	**0.000**
	Study	30	26,1667	3,94866	
Parity					
	Control	165	2,6424	1,12049	**0.020**
	Study	30	3,3667	1,51960	
Gestation Week					
	Control	165	38,9194	1,17717	**0.000**
	Study	30	37,8667	1,61316	
Baby Weight					
	Control	165	3519,2424	383,89913	**0.000**
	Study	30	2879,6667	436,25549	

CONCLUSION

✓ Pregnancy denial is not rare as supposed

✓ Most of them are not psychotic or concealing

✓Occurrence of denied pregnancy seems yet to be similar across different socio-demographic conditions.

✓This prospective, population-based study has also certain epidemiological relevance. The common view that denied pregnancies are exotic and rare events is no longer valid.
✓More studies of similar design are needed.

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