

[課程—2]

審査の結果の要旨

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The study objective was to investigate the risks of adverse pregnancy outcomes and cesarean section among adolescents in developing countries using the data from the 2004–2008 WHO Global Survey on Maternal and Perinatal Health and the Mongolian Maternal and Newborn Health Study.

Our study found the following results:

1. Adolescent mothers in developing countries were more likely to be single, to have lower body mass index and shorter stature, and to have fewer antenatal visits. The risk of maternal death was significantly higher among adolescent mothers aged younger than 16 years in Africa compared with older mothers.
2. After adjustment for country- and facility-level random effects and individual-level sociodemographic characteristics, adolescents aged 16–19 years had 26% lower risk of cesarean section than mothers aged 20–24 years. When restricted to cesarean section indicated for presumed cephalopelvic disproportion, the risk was 1.25 times higher among adolescent mothers aged younger than 16 years.
3. Adolescent mothers (<19 years) had significantly higher risks of low birth weight and preterm birth independent of socio-demographic and environmental factors, and the risks were highest among adolescents aged younger than 16 years. Whereas, significant high risk of perinatal death among infants born to adolescent mothers was attenuated after further adjustment for socio-demographic factors, number of antenatal care visits and gestational age at

birth.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the largest cross-regional study to report pregnancy outcomes of adolescents taken account for country and health facility effects in addition to socio-demographic characteristics to explain whether the effects observed are due to biological mechanisms or health system factors. Our study supports the evidence that that a large part of the risk in adolescent pregnancy would be explained by age of the mother. Therefore, preventing early pregnancy is important to reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality among adolescents in developing countries.