

SUMMARY

This study had been conducted to observe any gingival inflammatory changes that occur during pregnancy. Two hundred and forty eight pregnant mothers of the Nugegoda MOH region has been examined from the 1st to the 25th of July 1991. Their age ranged between 18 to 40 years and the period of gestation varied from 3 to 9 months. The examination was done by the investigator and a dental nurse using a dental mirror and a periodontal probe while the patient was seated on a normal straight back chair. During the examinations questions concerning knowledge, attitudes and habits related to oral has been asked and entered on a special recording sheet. The data were analysed using a d-base IV programme. All the subjects examined were found to have gingival inflammation; the gingival inflammation was scored using Gingival Index as described by Loe and Silness⁸. The value of GI increased from the third month of gestation upto the seventh month and declined to the level observed in the third month toward the end of pregnancy. The rate of change that has been observed during the course of pregnancy was found to be highest in the molar region. The pregnant mothers showed satisfactory knowledge on dental health and were found to be motivated. Thus this group could be further utilised for dental health education of their immediate families and community.