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**Study of knowledge , attitudes and practices in the use of iron folate in pregnancy among Primi Para admitted for delivery at General Hospital,Anuradhapura. MSc.(Community Medicine) - 1995 D 368**

The objective of the study was to describe the knowledge, attitudes and practices in the use of iron, folate in pregnancy among primi para admitted for delivery at G.H. Anuradhapura. This study consisted of 218 primi para admitted for delivery at G.H. Anuradhapura during a period of one month. The main instrument was a structured per coded questionnaire administered by trained interviewers. It was revealed that knowledge on anaemia and its causation was satisfactory among only 3 mothers, knowledge in the use of iron folate supplements and side effects was also poor among the mothers in the study sample. But the attitudes towards taking supplements and regularity of taking supplements were satisfactory. 71 per cent of the mothers claimed that they took the iron folate supplements regularly. Although practices and attitudes are good this may not be sustained as the knowledge is poor. Mere delivery of the message and the tables is not adequate to ensure success. Women must be convinced of the importance of iron for their health, and the health of their unborn child.