

# Smoking during pregnancy: knowledge, attitudes and practice of gynecologists and midwives in Flanders, Belgium.

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## BACKGROUND

- 13 to 18% of pregnant women continue to smoke (JONG-study, 2010; Boudrez et al., 2006).
- From January 2006 until June 2009 only 133 pregnant women asked reimbursement under the national smoking cessation campaign (February 2010, Belga)
- The preconceptional and prenatal period is considered as the ideal teaching moment for smoking cessation counseling (Ebert, et all. 2008).

## PROJECT GOALS

1. Knowledge: what do gynecologists and midwives know about the risks of smoking during pregnancy?
2. Attitudes: what are their beliefs regarding smoking cessation?
3. Practice: what do they advise their clients?



## METHODOLOGY

Qualitative research design using semi-structured interviews with 8 gynecologists and 9 midwives



## PRELIMINARY RESULTS

### Knowledge:

- Risk factors for the foetus are well known, risks factors for (pregnant) women are sufficiently known.
- Existence of national campaign is known, but not what the campaign stands for.
- Use of nicotine replacement therapy is insufficiently known and therefore not recommended by gynecologists and midwives.

### Attitudes:

- Smoking cessation is important to reduce health risks for mother and child.
- Midwives and gynecologists have a stereotyped view of 'the smoking pregnant woman'.
- Significant others have a larger influence on the smoking cessation process than professionals.

### Practice:

- Difficulties experienced: lack of time, lack of communication skills .
- Uncertainty about whose task it is to provide smoking cessation advice and counseling.

## CONCLUSION:

**Gynecologists and midwives need to be educated in assisting the women's smoking cessation process.**

### RESEARCH TEAMS

#### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Prof. Dr. L. Maes  
Prof. Dr. H. Boudrez  
Ghent University

#### DEPARTMENT URO-GYNAECOLOGY

Prof. Dr. M. Temmerman  
Ghent University

#### FLEMISH ORGANISATION OF MIDWIVES (VLOV)

M. Reyns, RM

#### FLEMISH HEALTH INSTITUTE (VIGez)

Dr. V. Stevens

### MIDWIFERY EDUCATION

Katholieke Hogeschool  
Sint-Lieven, Sint-Niklaas

K. De Wilde, RM, MSc

K. Temmerman, MSc

V. Balduyck, MSc

L. Trommelmans, PhD

Midwifery education