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## **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRE-ECLAMPSIA AND UNDERWEIGHT BABY IN THE OBSTETRICS UNIT OF GUIDO VALADARES NATIONAL HOSPITAL IN 2023**

**Ana Claudia da Costa Guterres, Elisa de Deus, Rafael dos Santos Ximenes, Odélia Soares Amaral, Teresa de Jesus Vaz Cabral, Antonio Ximenes**

National University of Timor Lorosa'e. Department of Midwifery

Email: [claudiaguterres5@gmail.com](mailto:claudiaguterres5@gmail.com), [joyelyna01@gmail.com](mailto:joyelyna01@gmail.com),  
[rafaelximenes1964@gmail.com](mailto:rafaelximenes1964@gmail.com), [Odeliasoaresamaral25@gmail.com](mailto:Odeliasoaresamaral25@gmail.com),  
[teresavazcabral@gmail.com](mailto:teresavazcabral@gmail.com), [ximenes085@gmail.com](mailto:ximenes085@gmail.com)

### **Abstract**

*Pre-eclampsia is a serious complication that affects the mother's body, childbirth, and postpartum. It is characterized by signs such as hypertension, edema, and proteinuria that occur during the 20 weeks of pregnancy. An underweight baby is a baby who weighs less than 2500 grams. According to data from the Timor-Leste Demographic Health Survey (TLDHS) in 2016, 215 mothers had pre-eclampsia and 72 babies died with underweight status. Pre-eclampsia is one of the complications that kills mothers with a high percentage of 25% and a frequency of 42. According to data from Guido Valadares National Hospital in 2021, 174 mothers had pre-eclampsia and 58 babies were underweight. To understand the relationship between pre-eclampsia and underweight baby incidents. This is a descriptive quantitative research with a cross-sectional approach. The technique used was Accidental Sampling, with a sample of 64 respondents. The results show that there is a relationship between pre-eclampsia and underweight baby incidents. 46 mothers (71.9%) had pre-eclampsia and 36 babies (78.3%) were underweight. The relationship between pre-eclampsia and underweight baby incidents had a p-value of 0.03. Conclusion: This research shows that there is a relationship between pre-eclampsia and underweight baby incidents. The information obtained can be used to improve the quality of service provided to mothers with specific focus on pre-eclampsia and underweight babies.*

**Keywords:** *Pre-eclampsia, underweight baby.*

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Asih 2013, Pre-eclampsia was identified as a deeprooted symptom that occurs in mothers with dual bodies during childbirth and postpartum that comes with indications such as hypertension, edema, and proteinuria that emerge during the first 20 weeks of pregnancy (Astuti, 2015). Pre-eclampsia typically occurs in mothers with dual bodies during the third t

trimester, characterized by low arterial pressure, edema, and proteinuria. If a baby is born underweight, defined as less than 2500 grams, it is not attributed to the gestational age (Yada & Shrestha, 2011).

According to Rahyani, 2020, Pre-eclampsia is a condition that develops during pregnancy or postpartum, characterized by symptoms such as hypertension, proteinuria, and edema. The diagnosis of Pre-eclampsia is based on hypertension and proteinuria during the 20th week of gestation.

Rahyani 2020 Pre-eclampsia is the primary cause of maternal mortality and is associated with the incidence of underweight baby deaths. Babies born underweight, defined as less than 2500 grams, are not attributed to the gestational age.

Nita & Mustika, 2013 stated that the factors behind Pre-eclampsia have not yet been detected, but some risk factors associated with Pre-eclampsia are as follows: maternal age, primigravida, multigravida, twin pregnancy, obesity, hypertension, and diabetes mellitus. Mitayani, 2013, reported the complications of Pre-eclampsia that affect the condition of the baby and inhibit the growth of the baby in the uterus, causing underweight birth, neonatal asphyxia, stillbirth, and premature birth.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 2015, the prevalence of Pre-eclampsia among mothers worldwide ranges from 0.51% to 38.4%, and the incidence of babies born underweight with Pre-eclampsia is 15%. Many advanced countries have higher rates of underweight baby births associated with the incidence of Pre-eclampsia, with the incidence of Pre-eclampsia ranging from 6% to 7% and the incidence of underweight baby births ranging from 2% to 4%. Babies born underweight are at a higher risk of maternal mortality. Babies born underweight are at a higher risk of death compared to babies born with a normal weight.

According to Gilbert and Harmon (2014), in ASEAN, pre-eclampsia increased over time and in mothers with pre-eclampsia, 1,355 births resulted in underweight babies (11.66%). In 2015, 1,228 cases of underweight babies were recorded out of all births by mothers with pre-eclampsia (11.72%). Based on research by Primayanti (2016), there is a significant relationship between preeclampsia and the incidence of underweight babies. There were 164 mothers with pre-eclampsia, of which 40.2% had mild pre-eclampsia and 59.8% had severe pre-eclampsia. Out of these, 106 cases resulted in underweight babies, accounting for 64.6% of total births, while babies born with even lower weight accounted for 34.1% (56 cases) and extremely underweight babies were only 1.2% (2 cases).

According to the Timor-Leste Demographic Health Survey (TLDHS) in 2016, 215 cases of pre-eclampsia were recorded, of which 72 resulted in underweight babies and 25% of these pre-eclampsia cases led to the death of the mother. Data from the National Hospital Guido Valadares in 2021 recorded 174 cases of pre-eclampsia resulting in 58 underweight babies. Researchers are taking the initiative to study the relationship between pre-eclampsia and the incidence of underweight babies at the National Hospital Guido Valadares in Dili in 2023.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Type of research Descriptive quantitative research is a type of research that aims to describe a phenomenon in numerical form. In this research, the writer used a Quantitative Descriptive Analytical method with a Crosssectional approach to understand the Relationship between Preeclampsia and Underweight Baby Incidents. According to Notoatmodjo, 2018, the sampling technique used to take a sample is NonProbability Sampling and Accidental Sampling, which means the respondents who have encountered preeclampsia in the research site can be taken as a sample. The operational definition is an explanation that clarifies the limitations of variables and how they are defined in the research.

## RESEARCH RESULTS

### Univariate analysis results

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents' age according to the mother's age in the Obstetrics Unit of the National Guido Valadares Hospital from April to May 2023.

Mother's Age	Frequency	Percentage %
Age 20-35	28	43,8%
Age <20 >35	36	56,3%
<b>Total</b>	64	100 %

*Sources: Primary Data from 2023*

**Survey Results Based on Table 1** above, it shows that there were 36 people (56.3 %) who were of age less than 20 or more than 35, compared to 28 people (43.8%) who were of age between 20-35.

### Education Level

**Table 2** shows the distribution of respondents according to their education level in the Obstetrics Unit of the National Guido Valadares Hospital from April to May in 2023.

Education Level	Frequency	Percentage %
No School	6	9,4 %
Primary School	15	23,4 %
Junior High School	17	26,6 %
High School	20	31,3 %
University	6	9,4 %
<b>Total</b>	64	100%

*Sources: Primary Data Research Results 2023*

Based on Table 2. Above, it indicates that there are more than 20 people (31.3%) with secondary education level who are mothers compared to those who have gone to university, which is only 6 people (9.4%).

**Table 3.** Distribution of respondent parity in the Obstetrics Unit of the National Guido Valadares Hospital from April to May 2023.

Parity	Frequency	Percentage %
Primigravida	31	48,4 %
Multigravida	33	51,6%
<b>Total</b>	64	100%

*Sources: Research Results from Questionnaire 2023*

Based on Table 3. Above, it shows that the result from the parity of multigravida children is 33 people (51.6%), which is higher compared to the result from primigravida mothers, which is only 31 people (48.4%).

**Table 4.** Distribution of respondents according to occupation in the Obstetrics Unit of the National Guido Valadares Hospital from April to May 2023.

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage %
Iha Okupasaun	35	54,7%
La iha okupasaun	29	45,3 %
<b>Total</b>	64	100 %

*Sources: Research Results from Questionnaire 2023*

Based on Table 4. Above, it indicates that there are more mothers who have occupations, about 35 people (54.7%), compared to those who do not have an occupation, which is only 29 people (45.3%).

**Table 5.** Distribution of respondents according to mothers with preclampsia in the Obstetrics Unit of the National Guido Valadares Hospital from April to May 2023.

Pre-éklamsia	Frequency	Percentage %
Pre-éklamsia	46	71,9%
Non Pre-éklamsia	18	28,1%
<b>Total</b>	64	100 %

*Sources: Research Results From Questionnaire 2023*

**Based on Table 5.** The above shows that the results from mothers with Pre-Eclampsia, a total of 46 people (71.9%), were much higher compared to Non Pre-Eclampsia mothers, a total of 18 people (28.1%).

**Table 6.** Distribution of Respondents, According to Baby's Weight at Birth Underweight and Normal Weight Babies in the Obstetrics Unit of the National Hospital Guido Valadares April to May 2023.

Underweight Babies	Frequency	Percentage %
<2500 gramas	43	67,2%
>2500 gramas	21	32,8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Sources: Research Results From Questionnaire 2023*

**Based on Table 6.** The above shows that the results from underweight babies were much higher, with a total of 43 people (67.2%), compared to normal weight babies, a total of 21 people (32.8%).

Table 7. Distribution of Respondents According to Pre-Eclampsia and NonPre-Eclampsia Mothers, with Underweight Babies in the Obstetrics Unit of the National Hospital Guido Valadares April to May 2023.

Pre eclampsia no Non Pre-eclampsia	Underweight Babies	Percentage %
Pre eclampsia	36	78,3 %
Non Pre-eclampsia	7	38,9 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Sources: Research Results From Questionnaire 2023*

Based on Table 7. The above shows that the results from Pre-Eclampsia mothers with underweight babies were much higher, with a total of 36 people (78.3%), compared to Non Pre-Eclampsia mothers, a total of 7 people (38.9%).

### Bivariate Analysis

According to Notoatmodjo (2018), bivariate analysis is used to understand the relationship between dependent and independent variables in this research. As for the data collected, statistical tests are carried out using Chi-square analysis (Purwanto, 2011).

Table 8. Relationship between Pre-Eclampsia and the Incidence of Underweight Newborns in Obstetrics Unit of the National Guido Valadares Hospital from April to May 2023.

Pre eclampsia no Non Pre-eclampsia	Underweight Newborns		Total	p-value
	Normal >2500 gr	Todan menus <2500 gr		
Pre-eclampsia	10	36	46	0,03
	21,7%	78,3%	100%	

<b>Non Pre-eclampsia</b>	11	7	18
	61,1%	38,9%	100%
<b>Total</b>	21	43	64

*Sources: Research results from questionnaire in 2023*

Based on Table 8, it is shown that there were a total of 46 cases of underweight newborns from mothers with pre-eclampsia, of which 36 (78.3%) resulted in fetal death. Among mothers without preeclampsia, there were 18 cases with 7 (38.9%) resulting in fetal death. The result of the chi-square statistical test shows a small p-value of 0.03, which indicates a significant relationship between pre-eclampsia and the incidence of underweight newborns.

## **Discussion**

### **Frequency Distribution of Pre-eclampsia and Non-pre-eclampsia Mothers**

Based on Table 7 above, the results show that a total of 46 (71.9%) of the mothers with preeclampsia were much higher compared to the 18 (28.1%) mothers without preeclampsia. From these results, it can be seen that mothers with pre-eclampsia are much higher compared to those without pre-eclampsia. Pre-eclampsia is a serious health problem that occurs to all women, especially to pregnant women.

Therefore, it requires special attention, especially to the bodies of both mother and fetus. Preeclampsia is a health problem that can affect anyone and can lead to other complications if not treated properly. According to Maryunani (2016), pre-eclampsia is a disease that occurs with signs of hypertension, proteinuria, and edema that occur during both mother and fetus pregnancy. Wahyuni (2013) stated that pre-eclampsia is a disease that occurs during pregnancy and can occur after gestational age of 20 weeks with symptoms such as hypertension, edema, and proteinuria. Preeclampsia is caused by many factors and if not treated properly, it can lead to eclampsia and convulsions. Cunningham (2012) stated that preeclampsia occurs with hypertension and proteinuria, or generalized edema, which is a reality caused by pregnancy after 20 weeks gestational age.

Many babies born from mothers with preeclampsia and nonpreeclampsia are underweight. Based on Table 7 above, the results show that a total of 36 (78.3%) babies born from mothers with preeclampsia were much higher compared to the 7 (38.9%) babies born from mothers without preeclampsia who were underweight. These results show that underweight babies are mostly born from mothers with preeclampsia. Underweight babies are babies who are born with less than normal weight. According to Atikah Proverawati and Cahyo Ismawati (2010), underweight babies are babies who are born weighing less than 2500 grams and have not completed their gestational period. Generally, underweight babies are related to one another.

She did not have her period for two months. Usually, a baby born underweight is related to the mother's age being under 18 or over 35, premature birth or caused by malnutrition. It means that the baby is born before reaching 38 weeks of pregnancy, but the baby was born underweight at 2500 grams. According to WHO, 2011, a baby who is born underweight is the same as a baby born weighing 2500 grams or less. An underweight baby is caused by premature birth (gestational age of fewer than 37 weeks) or due to the mother's malnutrition during pregnancy. Based on the explanation above, babies born underweight like the baby who was born weighing 2500 grams need fast treatment after delivery to prevent future growth risks. There is a relationship between preeclampsia (a pregnancy complication characterized by high blood pressure and damage to organs such as the liver and kidney) and babies being born underweight. Based on table 8 above, out of 46 mothers with preeclampsia, 36 (78.3%) had babies born underweight, and 10 (21.7%) did not. Among 18 mothers without pre-eclampsia, 7 (38.9%) had babies born underweight and 11 (61.1%) did not. The chi-square statistical test result showed that the p-value (0.03) is smaller than the alpha value  $\alpha$  (0.050), which means that pre-eclampsia and babies being born underweight have a significant relationship. Based on observations, pre-eclampsia is a significant risk for babies being born underweight. According to Matenek's observation in Rahyani, 2020, Pre-eclampsia is a disease characterized by signs such as hypertension, proteinuria, and edema that occur during pregnancy and are generally diagnosed in the third trimester. The diagnosis of pre-eclampsia is based on hypertension and proteinuria and occurs at the gestational age of 20 weeks. Pre-eclampsia is a major cause of babies born underweight.

Maternal mortality and the same cause related to underweight births occurred. Underweight births refer to babies born weighing less than 2500 grams at gestational age. According to Mitayani in 2013, complications from pre-eclampsia affecting the condition of the fetus can hinder fetal growth in the uterus and result in underweight babies, neonatal asphyxia, fetal death within the uterus, and premature babies. This issue is also based on the theory that, according to Winkjosastro in 2007, mothers who experience pre-eclampsia during pregnancy will experience placental dysfunction that can cause a disruption of blood flow to the placenta. As a result, the fetus will not receive optimal nutrition and oxygen. Invasion of trophoblastic cells can also cause placental function disturbances, primarily in the spiral arteries in the myometrium area, which cannot respond well to the fetus's nutritional and oxygen requirements, leading to fetal growth interruption in the mother with pre-eclampsia due to placental hypoperfusion. Spasms that cause interruptions in placental function can also cause abnormal fetal growth and underweight births during the gestational period. A reduced blood flow impedes the intake of nutrition, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), and oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>), which can result in asphyxia.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the results of the research conducted on the relationship between Pre-eclampsia and the incidence of underweight babies born at the Guido Valadares National Hospital in the year 2023, a total of 64 people were selected for the sample and the results from the frequency distribution of both pre-eclampsia and nonpre-eclampsia mothers were identified. It was found that 46 people (71.9%) had Pre-eclampsia, which is significantly higher compared to the 18 people (28.1%) who did not have it. 78.3% of the underweight babies were born from mothers with Pre-eclampsia, which is significantly higher compared to the 38.9% born from Non-pre-eclampsia mothers. The relationship between Pre-eclampsia and the incidence of underweight babies born showed a p-value of 0.03. The results also showed that there are significantly more cases of Pre-eclampsia compared to nonpre-eclampsia. There is also a significantly higher number of underweight babies born from Pre-eclampsia mothers. This research was conducted at the Obstetrics unit of the Guido Valadares National Hospital.



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