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A Literature Search on Birth Spacing and Maternal Depletion

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Sandra Kong, MPH and Andrew Wahl, MSLS

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ABSTRACT: This document compiles the results of a literature search on birth spacing and maternal depletion using various databases, including Medline, Popline, and Lilacs.

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Note: Citations and abstracts available from PubMed can be located on its website (www.pubmed.gov) by using the corresponding PMID number.

1. Cecatti JG; Correa-Silva EP; Milanez H; Morais SS; Souza JP. The associations between inter pregnancy interval and maternal and neonatal outcomes in Brazil. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*. 2008 Mar;12(2):275-281. PMID: 17551822 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

2. Okwu GN; Ukoha AI. Studies on the predisposing factors of iron deficiency anaemia among pregnant women in a Nigerian community. *Pakistan Journal of Nutrition*. 2008 Jan-Feb; 7(1):151-156.

Abstract: This paper examines factors that may contribute to iron deficiency anemia (IDA) among pregnant women in order to better target groups at higher risk of IDA. The study was conducted in urban and rural areas of Nigeria. One key finding was that pregnant women with birth spacing of less than one year and less than one and a half years had significantly lower mean Hb and higher prevalence of anemia.

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4. Conde-Agudelo A; Rosas-Bermudez A; Kafury-Goeta AC. Effects of birth spacing on maternal health: A systematic review. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 2007 Apr; 196(4):297-308. PMID: 17403398 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

5. Zilberman B. [Influence of short interpregnancy interval on pregnancy outcomes] [Article in Hebrew]. *Harefuah*. 2007 Jan; 146(1):42-7, 78. PMID: 17294848 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

6. Scheepers HC; Braat D. Birth spacing and adverse perinatal outcomes [letter]. *JAMA -- Journal of the American Medical Association*. 2006 Aug 23-30; 295(8):929.

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9. RamaRao S; Townsend J; Askew I. Correlates of inter-birth intervals: implications of optimal birth spacing strategies in Mozambique. *Population Council*, 2006 Mar. 17 p.

Abstract: This publication documents a pilot study promoting optimal birth spacing messages in Mozambique implemented by the FRONTIERS Program and Advance Africa.

10. CATALYST. Birth spacing grants compilation document. *CATALYST Consortium*, [2005]. [123] p.

Abstract: This report from the CATALYST Consortium describes the optimal birth spacing initiative (OBSI) grants program experiences in Bolivia, Cambodia, Nepal, Peru and Romania. Its main objectives were to increase awareness and knowledge of OBSI to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity. Three models of health promotion were utilized within this framework, all with the aim of improving reproductive health and family planning for women of reproductive age.

11. Beracochea E; Pruyn N. Optimal Birth Spacing program: operational research in Mozambique, 2004-2005. *Management Sciences for Health [MSH], Advance Africa Project*, 2005 Sep. 33 p.

Abstract: This document examines the feasibility of an intervention to raise awareness and knowledge on optimal birth spacing benefits in a Mozambican community.

12. Conde-Agudelo A; Belizán JM; Norton MH; Rosas-Bermúdez A. Effect of the interpregnancy interval on perinatal outcomes in Latin America. [Efecto del intervalo entre embarazos sobre los resultados perinatales en América Latina]. *Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 2005 Aug; 106(2):359-366. PMID: 16055588 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

13. Marston C. Report of a WHO Technical Consultation on Birth Spacing, Geneva, Switzerland, 13-15 June 2005. *Geneva, Switzerland, World Health Organization [WHO]*, 2006. 37 p.

Abstract: This WHO report documents a technical consultation held with WHO and UNICEF staff on birth spacing to review the evidence of the literature on birth spacing intervals and health outcomes for the mother and child. Recommendations based on this review are discussed.

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15. Rutstein SO. Effects of preceding birth intervals on neonatal, infant and under-five year mortality and nutritional status in developing countries: evidence from the Demographic and Health Surveys. *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics*. 2005 Apr; 89 Suppl 1:S7-S24. PMID: 15820369 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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18. Jansen WH; Cobb L. USAID birth spacing programmatic review. An assessment of country-level programs, communications, and training materials. *Population Technical Assistance Project [POPTECH]*, 2004 Feb. [180] p.

Abstract: This publication from POPTECH provides a review of birth spacing programs in order to determine effectiveness of service delivery programs on increasing awareness and knowledge of birth spacing, and to examine birth spacing efforts within these service delivery programs.

19. van Eijk AM; DeCock KM; Ayisi JG; Rosen DH; Otieno JA. Pregnancy interval and delivery outcome among HIV-seropositive and HIV-seronegative women in Kisumu, Kenya. *Tropical Medicine and International Health*. 2004 Jan; 9(1):15-24.

Abstract: This study examines factors associated with short pregnancy interval (PI), including child mortality, and effects on birth weight and haemoglobin in Kisumu, Kenya. One of the factors associated with a short PI (an interval less than 24 months) were women with a stillbirth, abortion, or death of a live-born child in previous pregnancy; however, no significant association was found for low birth weight, pre-maturity, small-for-gestational-age infants, or maternal anemia.

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Abstract: This publication from the CATALYST Consortium describes evidence-based research for increasing the optimal birth spacing recommendation from two-year intervals to at least three-year intervals.

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Abstract: This publication from the Child Survival Technical Support Project describes a study from Rutstein which finds that birth intervals should be at least 36 months to achieve optimal outcomes.

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Abstract: This study by Zhu et al. examines various interpregnancy intervals to determine the optimal benefits for maternal and neonatal health through an analysis of live births from 1993 -1998 in Michigan.

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Abstract: In this paper, the authors conducted a cost-benefit analysis of low birth weight deliveries and its effects in an economic context among Hungarian mothers.

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Abstract: The authors of this study examine the association between short pregnancy interval and premature births. One of the main findings was that while interpregnancy intervals are associated with increased risk of low birth weight, the effects of interpregnancy intervals on premature births have not been found to be significant.

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Abstract: In this paper, Doyle et al. describe results of a nutrition intervention during interpregnancy interval for women with a low birth weight baby in an urban area. Nutrition education and counseling as a single intervention is unlikely to improve the nutritional status of mothers in this urban population.

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Abstract: The authors conducted a study to understand the relationship between birth intervals and outcomes of pregnancy such as risk of miscarriage, low birth weight, and preterm birth in a British-born population.

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Abstract: In this paper, the authors explore data from Malaysia and Guatemala on the effects of short birth intervals on children's health as a result of inadequate recovery period from one pregnancy to the next pregnancy. These analyses indicate that women with better nutritional status may be able to bring the pregnancy to term more quickly and more often than those who have poorer levels of health.

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