

DANGER SIGNS DURING PREGNANCY

Introduction

- ❖ Most women go through pregnancy without serious problems. Normal discomforts of pregnancy can include heartburn, backache, breast tenderness and swelling, and tiredness.



- ❖ However, during pregnancy and childbirth some problems may arise which can threaten the life of the mother, baby or both.
- ❖ It is possible to identify women with some problems quite early if they have routine ante-natal check-up.
- ❖ Knowing these danger signs can help AWW know when a pregnant woman may need special care from the healthcare provider.
- ❖ If timely treatment is not sought, it can result in death or disability of the woman or child or both.
- ❖ A pregnant woman with danger signs should be taken to the FRU/hospital for advice.

Risk Factors during Pregnancy

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- ✦ Short statured women (less than 145 cm or 4 feet 10 inches).
- ✦ Age less than 18 years or more than 35 years.
- ✦ History of any medical problem such as heart disease, diabetes, T.B., Malaria, Anaemia and another medical problem.
- ✦ Weight less than 38 kgs at first trimester.
- ✦ Problems in previous pregnancy (bad obstetric history or previous caesarean section).
- ✦ Malaria in pregnancy
- ✦ Sluggish/loss of foetal movement
- ✦ Problems in present pregnancy like:
 - Bleeding anytime during pregnancy
 - Abnormal presentation
 - Pregnancy induced hypertension
 - Severe Anaemia
 - Twins, over-distended uterus



Danger Signs:

<p>Bleeding during pregnancy or delivery-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any bleeding during pregnancy or excessive bleeding during/after delivery can be fatal for the mother and/or baby. The woman should be immediately taken to the hospital. 	
<p>Severe anaemia with or without breathlessness-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women with severe anaemia have pale eyelids, nails and palms. They may or may not have breathlessness. It can lead to many other complications like heart failure at the time of childbirth, pre-term labor and infections during pregnancy. A pregnant woman with severe anaemia must deliver in hospital. 	
<p>High fever during pregnancy or within one month of delivery-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this condition, she should be taken to hospital immediately. High fever is an indication of some infection in the woman. It can be harmful for the growing baby. The woman to be kept covered and warm during transportation. Wet, cold sponging is to be used to bring down the fever. 	
<p>Convulsions or fits, blurring of vision, headache, sudden swelling of feet-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This condition can cause brain damage/death of the mother and the unborn baby In this condition also, she should be taken to the hospital as early as possible. 	
<p>Labour pain for more than 12 hours-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The woman should be immediately taken to the hospital. The woman should deliver in the presence of a doctor. 	
<p>Bursting of water bag without labour pain-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The woman and the baby have greater chances of developing infection in case the water bag bursts. The woman should be immediately taken to the hospital. The woman should deliver in the presence of a doctor. 	