

Prevalence and risk factors for gestational diabetes mellitus according to the Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Group India in comparison to International Association of the Diabetes and Pregnancy Study Groups in El-Minya, Egypt

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Background

The prevalence of gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) has increased dramatically worldwide in the last decades, but unfortunately it was not studied in Egypt.

Objective

Assessment of the prevalence of GDM in El-Minya city, Egypt using the Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Group India (DIPSI) in comparison to the International Association of the Diabetes and Pregnancy Study Groups (IADPSG) criteria, and assessment of the risk factors for GDM in this locality.

Patients and methods

There were 700 pregnant women who underwent the 75 g oral glucose tolerance test irrespective of the meal and plasma glucose measurement after 2 h. In the next morning, fasting and 1 h, and 2 h post-75 g oral glucose tolerance test were assessed. Diagnosis of GDM was carried out according to the DIPSI and IADPSG criteria.

Results

GDM was diagnosed in 62/700 women (8.86%) by DIPSI versus 52/700 (7.43%) by IADPSG. Compared with IADPSG, the sensitivity and specificity of DIPSI were 100 and 98.5%, respectively, while the positive and negative predictive values were 83 and 100%, respectively. The multiple logistic regression analysis has shown that BMI, urban residency, gestational hypertension, previous history of GDM, gestational hypertension, family history of DM, and the educational level less than secondary school were determined as independent risk factors of GDM.

Conclusion

The GDM prevalence in El-Minya city was 8.86% by DIPSI versus 7.43% by IADPSG with high sensitivity, specificity, and predictive values. The DIPSI could be considered as a simple, single, convenient, and economical method of GDM screening. However, more evaluation in a bigger patient sample is recommended.

Keywords:

Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Group India, gestational diabetes, International Association of the Diabetes and Pregnancy Study Groups

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Introduction

With first recognition during pregnancy, carbohydrate intolerance is defined as gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) [1–5]. This common metabolic problem is associated with several complications to the mother and the child [6]. The fetal morbidities may include macrosomia, birth trauma, hypoglycemia, hypocalcemia, hypomagnesemia, hyperbilirubinemia, polycythemia, respiratory distress syndrome [6–8], and a higher risk for childhood metabolic syndrome, and diabetes mellitus (DM) in early adulthood [3,5,6]. Mothers may have a considerably elevated risk of preeclampsia, caesarean section, infection, and polyhydramnios [6,8], and type 2 DM later on [6,9]. Also, GDM may uncover an increased risk of developing long-term cardiovascular disease both in the mother and the child [1,4]. The risk factors for GDM include increased parity, high maternal age, prepregnancy

obesity, family history of diabetes, and obstetric history of GDM, delivery of an infant with macrosomia, or with congenital malformation [3,8–10]. With a global increase, the prevalence of GDM varies from 1 to 14% [5,8] with higher rates in Australia (Indian-born 15%, Chinese 13.9%) and in the USA (Zuni Indians 14.3%) [11].

The objectives of this study were to assess the prevalence of GDM according to the Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Group India (DIPSI) criteria, and to assess its sensitivity, specificity, and predictive values in comparison to the International Association of the

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Diabetes and Pregnancy Study Groups (IADPSG) criteria and also to examine the association of GDM with a number of risk factors in a sample of the Egyptian pregnant population.

Patients and methods

This study was carried out at Minya University Hospital, in El-Minya city (230 000 population), at Upper Egypt from June 2015 to November 2015. The sample size was calculated based on a 5% prevalence of GDM with a 2% uncertainty level [12] with an estimated number of 780 patients required for the study. After approval of the study protocol from the local institutional ethics committee, we contacted the main antenatal care centers in the city to refer the pregnant women with an estimated gestational age of between 24th and 28th weeks who met the inclusion criteria and agreed to participate in the study after signing an informed consent. The exclusion criteria for this study were pre-GDM, chronic illness, and drugs that might affect pregnancy.

All the participants in the study were subjected to full history taking, through clinical examination, and laboratory investigations. The history included demographic characteristics, educational level, smoking, occupation, parity, family history of DM and/or hypertension in the first-degree relatives, past history of GDM, macrosomia (baby was born ≥ 4 kg), stillbirth, or unexplained neonatal death. The clinical examination was concluded with blood pressure estimation, anthropometric measurements [weight (kg) and height (m)], and BMI estimation. The laboratory investigations included 2 h glucose level after ingestion of 75 g glucose (anhydrous glucose powder is dissolved in 250–300 ml water and consumed within 5 min) irrespective of the meal (fasting or nonfasting) according to the DIPSI criteria [13]. The capillary blood glucose level was estimated, and levels of at least 140 mg/dl were considered diabetic. Then all women screened by DIPSI were requested to come on overnight fasting on the following day and the 2 h 75 g oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) was performed. Assessment of capillary blood glucose was done with the participant fasting, and 1, and 2 h post-glucose load. According to the International Association of the Diabetes and Pregnancy Study Groups [14], GDM was diagnosed with fasting blood sugar (FBS) of at least 92 mg/dl, 1 h postprandial of at least 180 mg/dl, or the 2-h postprandial of at least 153 mg/dl.

Statistical analysis

The collected data were coded, tabulated, and statistically analyzed using the statistical package for the social sciences

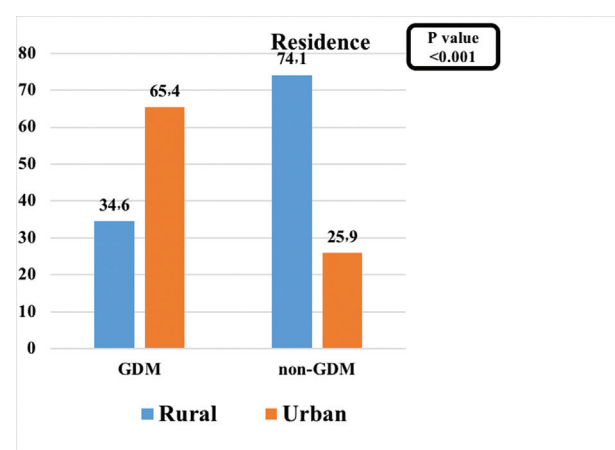
(SPSS) software, version 23 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, Illinois, USA). Descriptive statistics were done for parametric quantitative data by mean, SD, and the range, while they were performed for categorical data based on the number and percentage. Analyses were done for parametric quantitative data between two groups using independent sample *t*-test, and for nonparametric quantitative data using Mann–Whitney *U*-test. Analyses were done for qualitative data using χ^2 -test correlation between two quantitative variables was done by using Pearson's correlation coefficient and for qualitative ordinal variable by using nonparametric Spearman's ρ correlation coefficient. Odds ratios were calculated for different risk factors using multiple logistic regression analyses ($P < 0.05$). The sensitivity, specificity, and the predictive values (positive and negative) of DIPSI in relation to IADPSG were calculated.

Results

Of the 780 consecutive pregnant women during the study period, 80 cases were excluded (68 because of chronic illness and 12 who did not come to do the 2 h 75 g OGTT), and the remaining 700 women were included. Of them, 505 (72.14%) women were from rural areas and 195 (27.86%) were from urban areas. Their mean age was 26.5 ± 5.5 years (range: 18–42). The GDM was diagnosed in 62 (8.86%) cases based on the DIPSI criteria. Upon evaluation of the patients with the IADPSG criteria, GDM was diagnosed in 52 (7.43%) cases only (Fig. 1). The sensitivity, specificity, positive, and negative predictive value of DIPSI in comparison to the IADPSG criteria is about 100, 98.5, 83, and 100%, respectively.

Table 1 summarizes the demographic and baseline characteristics of the studied pregnant women. The

Figure 1



BMI in women with gestational diabetes versus control.

mean age of the participants was 26.5 ± 5.5 years (range: 18–42 years), with 380 (54.28%) of them under 25 years. The mean marital age was 20.4 ± 2.2 years (range: 17–34 years). The mean body weight was 74.8 ± 8.3 kg (range: 52–130 kg). The mean BMI was 26.7 ± 2.4 (range: 21.8–47.2), with 609 (87%) patients having a BMI of at least 25%, and 91 (13%) having a BMI of less than 25%. Most of the participants (91.42%) were housewives, while only 8.57% were working. On the basis of the educational state, 575 (82.14) patients have secondary education and above versus 125 (17.86%) patients have less than a secondary education. The mean systolic blood pressure was 116.8 ± 7.4 (range: 100–140) and the mean diastolic blood pressure was 74.1 ± 5.4 (range: 60–90).

Table 1 Baseline characteristics of the study population

Age (years)	
Range	18–42
Mean \pm SD	26.5 ± 5.5
<25 (years)	380 (54.28)
>25 (years)	320 (45.72)
Marital age (years)	
Range	17–34
Mean \pm SD	20.4 ± 2.2
Body weight (kg)	
Range	52–130
Mean \pm SD	74.8 ± 8.3
Height (cm)	
Range	153–185
Mean \pm SD	167.3 ± 4.8
BMI (kg/m ²)	
Range	21.8–47.2
Mean \pm SD	26.7 ± 2.4
BMI (kg/m ²)	
<25	91 (13)
≥ 25	609 (87)
Residence	
Rural	505 (72.14)
Urban	195 (27.86)
Occupation	
Housewife	640 (91.42)
Worker	60 (8.58)
Educational level	
<Secondary	125 (17.86)
Illiterate	32 (4.6)
Primary	14 (2)
Preparatory	79 (11.3)
Secondary or above	575 (82.14)
Secondary	454 (64.9)
High education	121 (17.3)
SBP (mmHg)	
Range	100–140
Mean \pm SD	116.8 ± 7.4
DBP (mmHg)	
Range	60–90
Mean \pm SD	74.1 ± 5.4

DBP, diastolic blood pressure; SBP, systolic blood pressure.

Table 2 presents the past obstetric history of the studied pregnant women. There was a past history of macrosomia in four (0.57%) cases, twins in 10 (1.43%) cases, abortions and stillbirths in 112 (16%) cases, preterm labor in 36 (5.14%) cases, gestational hypertension in 32 (4.57%) cases, previous GDM in 11 (1.57%) cases, polycystic ovary syndrome in two (0.29%) cases, neonatal death in 17 (2.43%) cases, and no history of preeclampsia. There was a family history of DM in 76 (10.9%) cases.

Table 3 compares the demographic data between the GDM and non-GDM groups. The GDM group had significantly higher mean age, marital age, body weight, and BMI than the non-GDM group (30.1 ± 5.6 vs. 26.2 ± 5.3) (22.2 ± 3.0 vs. 20.3 ± 2.1) (87.7 ± 15.9 vs. 73.7 ± 6.1), and (31.4 ± 5.3 vs. 26.3 ± 1.5), respectively, with a *P* value less than 0.001 for all. Most of the GDM patients were from urban areas (urban/rural: 65.4/34.6%), but on the contrary most of the non-GDM patients were from rural areas [urban/rural: 25.9/74.1 (*P*<0.001)]. More than three-fourths of the patients in the GDM group were housewives (76/23%) (*P*<0.001). Also, the GDM rate was found to be increased with a decrease in educational qualification, being highest in women below the secondary school level of education (*P*<0.00).

Table 4 shows that GDM women had a statistically significant higher past history of macrosomia, abortions, stillbirth, gestational hypertension, polycystic ovary syndrome, family history of diabetes (*P*<0.001 for all), and (*P*<0.01) for neonatal death.

Table 5 presents the multiple logistic regression analysis for prediction of GDM, BMI [*P*<0.001,

Table 2 Past obstetric history of the participants

History	Descriptive statistics (<i>n</i> =700) [<i>n</i> (%)]	
	No	Yes
Macrosomic baby	696 (99.43)	4 (0.57)
Twins	690 (98.57)	10 (1.43)
Abortions or stillbirths	588 (84)	112 (16)
Preterm labor	664 (94.86)	36 (5.14)
Malformation	700 (100)	0 (0)
Gestational HTN	668 (95.43)	32 (4.57)
Previous GDM	689 (98.43)	11 (1.57)
PCOS	698 (99.71)	2 (0.29)
Family history of DM	624 (89.1)	76 (10.9)
Neonatal death	683 (97.57)	17 (2.43)
Preeclampsia	700 (100)	0 (0)

DM, diabetes mellitus; GD, gestational diabetes mellitus; HTN, hypertension; PCOS, polycystic ovary syndrome.

Table 3 Comparison of women with gestational diabetes versus control

Variables	Participants		P value
	Control (n=648)	GDM (n=52)	
Age			
Range	18–42	20–42	0.001
Mean±SD	26.2±5.3	30.1±5.6	
Marital age			
Range	17–34	18–28	0.001
Mean±SD	20.3±2.1	22.2±3	
Parity			
<2	246 (38)	20 (38.5)	0.001
≥2	402 (62)	32 (61.5)	
Gravidity			
<2	183 (28.2)	6 (11.5)	0.009
≥2	465 (71.8)	46 (88.5)	
Body weight (kg)			
Range	52–124.6	69–130	0.001
Mean±SD	73.7±6.1	88.7±15.9	
Height (cm)			
Range	153–185	159–177	0.380
Mean±SD	167.2±4.8	167.8±4.6	
BMI (kg/m ²)			
Range	21.8–39.8	26.2–47.2	< 0.001 *
Mean±SD	26.3±1.5	31.4±5.3	
BMI (kg/m ²)			
<25	84 (12.9)	0 (0)	< 0.001 *
25–29.9	557 (86)	30 (57.7)	
≥30	7 (1.1)	22 (42.3)	
Residence			
Rural	480 (74.1)	18 (34.6)	< 0.001 *
Urban	168 (25.9)	34 (65.4)	
Occupation			
Housewife	600 (92.6)	40 (76.9)	< 0.001 *
Worker	48 (7.4)	12 (23.1)	
Educational level			
<Secondary	109 (16.8)	16 (30.8)	< 0.001 *
Illiterate	30 (4.6)	2 (3.8)	
Primary	10 (1.5)	4 (7.7)	
Preparatory	69 (10.6)	10 (19.2)	
≥Secondary	539 (83.2)	36 (69.2)	
Secondary	436 (67.3)	18 (34.6)	
High education	103 (15.9)	18 (34.6)	

confidence interval (CI): 1.529–2.475%], urban residency ($P<0.001$, CI: 3.117–32.828%), gestational hypertension ($P<0.01$, CI: 1.542–44.084%) previous history of GDM ($P<0.01$, CI: 0.93–72.4%), family history of DM ($P<0.001$, CI: 2.290–27.594%), and the educational level more than secondary school is a risk protective factor ($P<0.001$, CI: 0.041–0.464%).

Table 6 presents the comparison of mean age and BMI of the participants based on their residency. The mean BMI of women with urban residency was significantly higher as compared with those with rural residency ($P<0.001$), but the age has

Table 4 Past obstetric history of gestational diabetes mellitus versus control

History	Non-GDM (n=648) [n/N (%)]	GDM (n=52) [n/N (%)]	P value
Macrosomic baby	0/648 (0)	4/52 (7.69)	<0.001*
Twins	10/648 (1.54)	0/52 (0)	0.367
Abortions or stillbirth	100/648 (15.43)	12/52 (23.07)	0.148
Preterm labor	34/648 (5.24)	2/52 (3.84)	0.660
Malformation	0/648 (0)	0/52 (0)	–
Gestational hypertension	18/648 (2.77)	14/52 (26.92)	<0.001*
PCOS	0/648 (0)	2/52 (3.84)	<0.001*
Family diabetes	56/648 (8.64)	20/52 (38.46)	<0.001*
Neonatal death	13/648 (2.0)	4/52 (7.69)	0.010*
Hirsutism	0/648 (0)	0/52 (0)	–
Preeclampsia	0/648 (0)	0/52 (0)	–

GDM, gestational diabetes mellitus.

Table 5 Multiple logistic regression analysis for prediction of gestational diabetes mellitus

	AOR	95% confidence interval		P value
		Lower	Upper	
Age (years)	2.479	0.665	9.240	0.176
Age of marriage (years)	1.099	0.886	1.363	0.390
BMI (kg/m ²)	1.945	1.529	2.475	<0.001*
Residence (urban)	10.116	3.117	32.828	<0.001*
Job (worker)	0.484	0.085	2.757	0.414
Educational level (>secondary)	0.138	0.041	0.464	0.001*
Gravidity (>2)	1.976	0.401	9.732	0.403
Parity (>2)	0.945	0.281	3.176	0.927
SBP (mmHg)	0.999	0.931	1.072	0.971
DBP (mmHg)	1.090	0.995	1.194	0.063
Gestational hypertension	8.245	1.542	44.084	0.014*
Previous GDM	8.208	0.930	72.427	0.05
Family history of diabetes	7.949	2.290	27.594	0.001*
History of neonatal death	2.330	0.244	22.209	0.462

DBP, diastolic blood pressure; GDM, gestational diabetes mellitus; SBP, systolic blood pressure.

nonsignificant difference. This finding explains the higher percentage of urban residency in the GDM group (Figs 2–4).

Discussion

The prevalence of DM as a major noncommunicable disease in Egypt is rapidly growing probably due to the rapid sociodemographic changes [15,16]. Egypt was identified to be the ninth leading country worldwide in terms of the number of patients with DM with a prevalence rate of 15.9% [15]. Accordingly, it is not surprising to expect an increase in GDM prevalence despite the paucity of literature in this regard [17]. Therefore, this study

was conducted to evaluate the prevalence of GDM in El-Minya city, in Upper Egypt.

Due to the near similarity of the sociocultural status between Egypt and India, we find it wise to use the DIPSI as a simple, feasible, and single-step screening procedure. Its principle is based on that normal women could maintain an euglycemic state despite the glucose

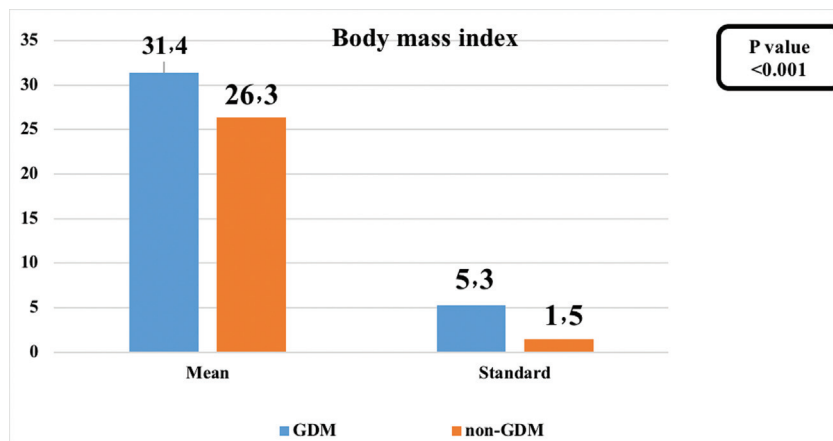
challenge; however, those women with impaired insulin secretion will respond with hyperglycemia [18]. Being a single-step test and evading the need for a second visit for diagnosis, offers a socioeconomic advantage for the Egyptian patients with low socioeconomic status. To evaluate the accuracy of DIPSI in comparison to the most credible method of screening for DM in the world, we did 2-h OGTT according to the IADPSG criteria.

This study revealed a GDM prevalence of 8.86% based on the DIPSI criteria versus 7.4% according to the IADPSG criteria. In comparison to the IADPSG criteria, the DIPSI test has shown a sensitivity and specificity of 100 and 98.5%, respectively. Its positive and negative predictive values in comparison to IADPSG were about 83 and 100%, respectively. These results were comparable to those of many authors: Khalil *et al.* [17] in Lower Egypt, Swami

Table 6 Comparison of mean age and BMI of participants based on residency

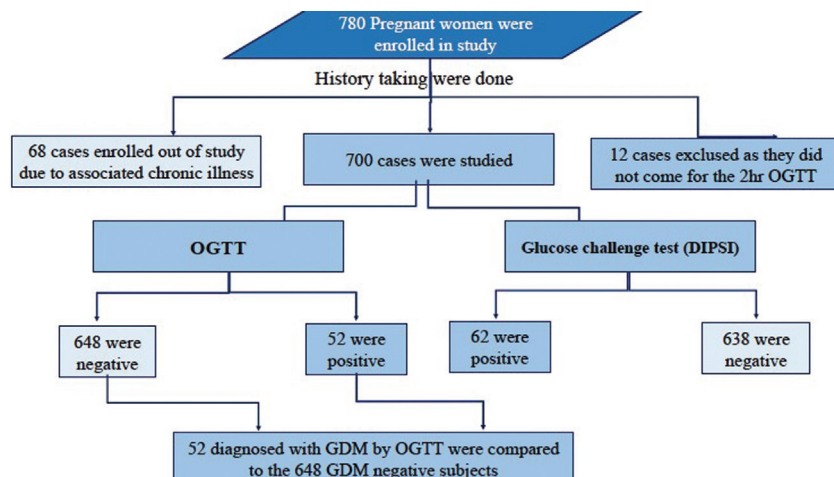
Variables	Residence		P value
	Rural (n=498)	Urban (n=202)	
Age			
Range	18–42	18–41	0.373
Mean±SD	26.6±5.6	26.2±4.9	
BMI (kg/m ²)			
Range	21.9–44.8	21.8–47.2	0.008*
Mean±SD	26.6±2.1	27.1±3.1	

Figure 2



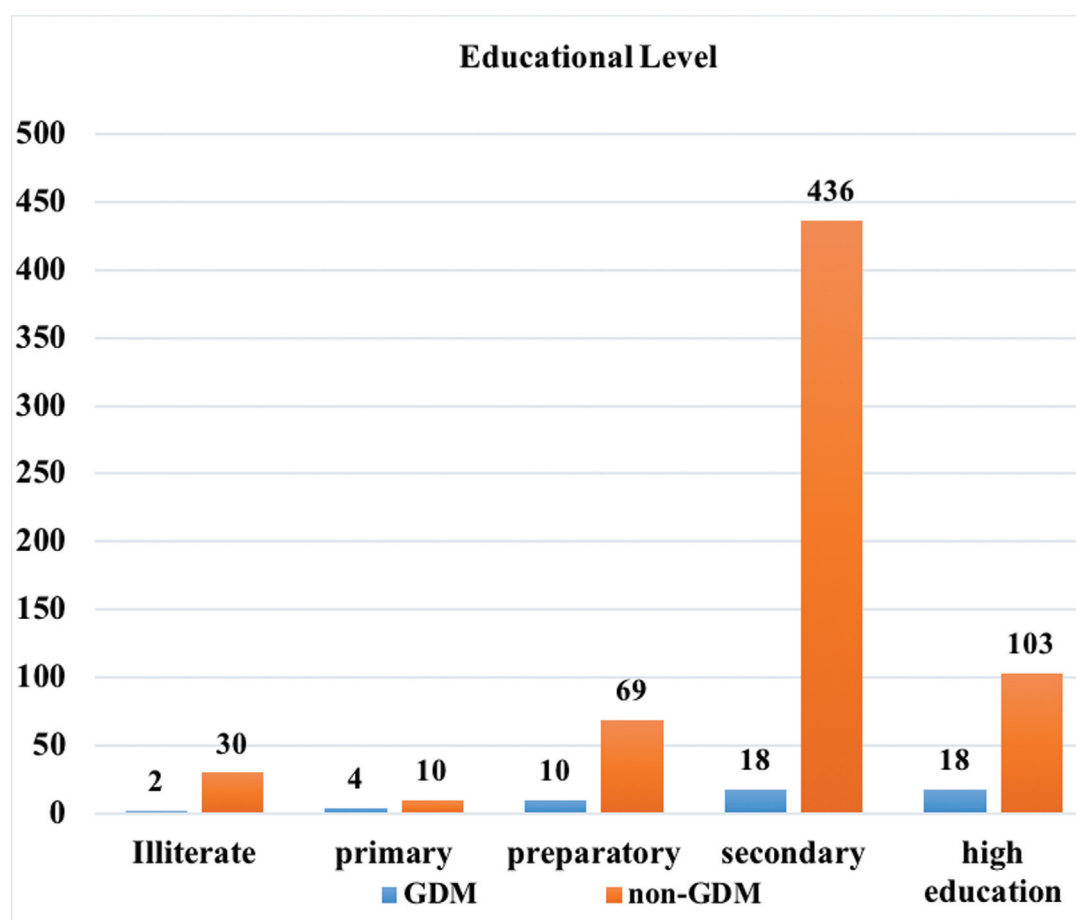
The state of residency in women with gestational diabetes versus control.

Figure 3



The level of education in women with gestational diabetes versus control.

Figure 4



Flowchart showing recruitment of the study women and prevalence of GDM by DIPSI criteria, and ADA (IADPSG). DIPSI, Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Group India; GDM, gestational diabetes mellitus; IADPSG, International Association of the Diabetes and Pregnancy Study Groups; OGTT, oral glucose tolerance test.

et al. [19] from Nigeria, Anzaku and Musa [20] from India, and Seyoum *et al.* [21] from Morocco reported prevalence rates of 8, 8.3, 7.7, and 7.7%, respectively. On the contrary, Macaulay *et al.* [22] from Tanzania, Jafari-Shobeiri *et al.* [23] from Iran, and Agarwal [24] from Ethiopia reported GDM prevalence rates of 0, 3.41, and 3.7%, respectively. These stark differences may be attributed to the difference in the diagnostic criteria used or the population studied to the extent that the results reported from five African countries such as Ethiopia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, and South Africa revealed prevalence figures ranging from 1.6 to 13.9%.

Controversy still exists about the sensitivity and effectiveness of DIPSI versus the commonly used tests for GDM screening as the WHO and IADPSG. In agreement with Vijayalakshmi *et al.* [25], our results revealed a high sensitivity index for DIPSI test with more cases diagnosed for GDM than the IADPSG criteria. This may be explained by the diurnal variation in glucose tolerance, insulin sensitivity, and β -cell responsivity later in the day,

taking into consideration that the DIPSI test can be done at any time in the day, while the IADPSG is usually done in the morning [26–29]. On the contrary, other studies [30,31] have shown that the DIPSI test showed a lower sensitivity index with fewer cases being diagnosed for GDM compared with both WHO and IADPSG criteria. Despite the controversy about DIPSI as a screening tool of GDM, we agree with Seshiah *et al.* [32] in favor of DIPSI being a simple, single-step screening and diagnostic procedure, economical and easy to perform. It can be considered as a useful tool for comprehensive screening for GDM in the first visit, as well as in the 24–28 gestation weeks for antenatal care, while avoiding multiple complex tests in screening.

In concordance with other studies [33–35], the current study has shown that increasing maternal age was associated with increased GDM prevalence. In our cases, GDM was more frequent among those more than 30 years, while the normal control had a mean age of 24 years. Kanadys *et al.* [35] reported that maternal

age of more than 35 years increases the risk of GDM by more than three times.

Although most of the participants in this study were residing in the countryside (75%), the prevalence of the GDM was higher in those living in urban areas (65 vs. 34%). This can be explained in agreement with Macaulay *et al.* [22] that the transition from rural to urban lifestyle with changes in eating habits, western diet with increased consumption of fats, sugars and refined carbohydrates, increased body mass and decreased physical activity. This was evident in the current study. The mean BMI of women living in urban areas was much higher than those in rural areas (27.1 ± 3.1 vs. 26.6 ± 2.1 , $P=0.008$).

In agreement with Yang *et al.* [36], this study has shown that the GDM group had a higher rate of parity of more than two children. On the contrary, Duman [37] reported no role for parity on the risk of GDM and Seghieri *et al.* [38] reported that parity is not directly related to insulin sensitivity degradation or GDM onset, unless it is associated with the effect of progressive aging and weight gain both before and during pregnancy. This difference is most likely to be explained by the differences in sample population or age.

We agree with Soheilykhah *et al.* [39], Rajput *et al.* [40], and Erem *et al.* [8] that the family history of DM had a significant relationship with the evolution of GDM in the studied group.

Obesity has been reported to be an important risk factor for the development of GDM [19,33,41]. In agreement with Rajput *et al.* [40], our study revealed that the prevalence of GDM was significantly higher in women with higher BMI and higher body weight. Bianco *et al.* [42] reported a three-fold higher risk of developing GDM in obese women than in nonobese women [43], 3.76 times in women with a BMI of at least 30 kg/m^2 [44], and up to 60 times more likely to develop GDM in women with at least 30 kg/m^2 than those with a BMI of less than 18.5 kg/m^2 . Even prepregnancy BMI and obesity were reported in several studies to be associated with higher prevalence of GDM and represent independent risk factors for GDM [8].

The most important factor affecting insulin sensitivity is unsaturated fatty acids. Pancreatic β -cells increase insulin release in case of increased insulin resistance to maintain euglycemia. These cells may be a victim of dysfunction with constant

exposure to high levels of unsaturated fatty acids resulting in type 2 diabetes. Excessive adipose tissue leads to excessive release of unsaturated fatty acids. Similarly, GDM may develop through the same mechanism [45].

The educational level is considered as an indicator of the low socioeconomic position (SEP) [46]. Low SEP has been identified as a major risk factor for the development of type 2 DM [47,48] as well as GDM [49]. This risk may be explained by the relatively high rates of overweight and obesity in this group of people. In agreement with Bo *et al.* [50] and Bouthoorn *et al.* [46], we found that women with less than secondary education had an increased risk of GDM. Logistic regression analysis showed that education higher than the secondary school level is risk protective against GDM [odds ratio (OR): 0.138; 95% CI: 0.041–0.464]. On the contrary, other studies did not find any association between GDM with education in Chinese pregnant women [36], or with SEP [51,52].

In agreement with Erem *et al.* [8], Khalil *et al.* [17], and Leng *et al.* [53], our study revealed that gestational hypertension was significantly higher in the GDM group. This was confirmed with regression analysis. On the contrary, Zokaie *et al.* [34] reported a nonsignificant difference between GDM cases and the control group regarding blood pressure measurement.

In concordance with Pridjian and Benjamin [4], Erem *et al.* [8], and Khalil *et al.* [17], our findings have shown that macrosomia was significantly associated with previous history of GDM.

Conclusion

The DIPSI criteria may be a suitable tool for GDM screening in our area. The overall prevalence of GDM by DIPSI was 8.86% with a positive predictive value of 84% in relation to IADPSG. The risk factors for GDM development were increased BMI, urban residency, education lower than the secondary level, family history of DM, and gestational hypertension.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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