

# The Awareness Level of Saudi Mothers Towards Common Neonatal Danger Signs

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## ABSTRACT

**Study Design:** Cross sectional

**Introduction:** In developing countries like Saudi Arabia, most of the newborn deaths are reported to take place at home. Majority of such deaths have been caused due to lack of awareness, late detection of symptoms of critical infection by caregivers and mothers, and late decision-making in seeking healthcare services. Mothers' familiarity on symptoms recognized by the WHO is very important for health-seeking behavior of mothers.

**Objective:** This study is aimed to investigate the awareness, health-seeking behavior and knowledge of caregivers and mothers about neonatal danger signs in Saudi Arabia.

**Methodology:** A "community-based, cross-sectional study" was conducted on awareness level of mothers in Saudi Arabia on neonatal danger signs suggested by WHO. The sample size consists of 4518 mothers who have delivered the baby over the past two years and nurtured a baby. A self-structured questionnaire was designed to share online to gather the data. The data was analyzed through IBM SPSS v20.0 to evaluate awareness and experience of mothers about danger signs with one-sample t-test with confidence interval of 95%.

**Results:** In this study, 1265 (28%) participants recognized yellow palms/sores as a danger sign in newborn child. Additionally, 19.4% and 18.8% women recognized fast breathing and convulsion as danger signs, respectively. Child not feeding since birth or stopped feeding is another sign recognized by 7.7% participants, weakness or lethargy was recognized by 4% participants, excess crying was recognized by 3.8% participants and weight gain was recognized by 2.3% participants. After performing one sample t-test with confidence interval of 95%, it was observed that there is a significant impact of participants' familiarity on recognizing "neonatal danger signs ( $p < 0.05$ )."

**Keywords:** Neonatal danger signs, WHO, Saudi Arabia, Caregivers, Mothers, Newborn deaths, Awareness, Knowledge, Health-seeking behavior

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