

Maternal age and the likelihood of a maternal request for cesarean delivery: A 5-year population-based study

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Abstract

OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this study was to examine associations between maternal age and maternal request cesarean deliveries. **STUDY DESIGN:** Five-year population-based data from Taiwan (1997-2001) that covered 904,657 singleton deliveries without a clinical indication for cesarean delivery that were judged by the attending physician were subjected to multiple logistic regression, year-wise, to examine the association of maternal age with request cesarean delivery, adjusted for health care institutional characteristics. **RESULTS:** Request cesarean delivery rates steadily increased over the study period within each age group, disproportionately so among the 34+ age group. Women aged < 25 years were less likely than women aged 25 to 34 years (reference group) to request a cesarean delivery (odds ratio range, 0.67-0.88) and women aged 34+ were more likely than the reference group to have a request cesarean delivery (odds ratio range, 1.96-2.01), adjusted for health care institutional characteristics. **CONCLUSION:** Population-based data confirms the expectancy that request cesarean delivery propensity increases with maternal age.