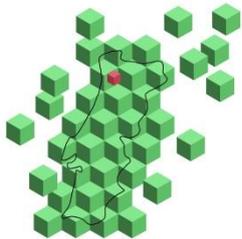


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PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS



733. Attitudes about pregnancy and motherhood and alcohol consumption in a group of Portuguese pregnant women

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Maternal alcohol consumption during pregnancy (use and abuse) is a significant health problem because of the risks for negative prenatal, neonatal and later neurobehavioral outcome ranging from subtle developmental problems to fetal alcohol syndrome. Despite World Health Organization, European and Portuguese governmental (and other countries) concerns and recommendations, there are a substantial number of women in all world who continue to drink during pregnancy. In Portugal, data on alcohol consumption during pregnancy is scarce. In spite of international research community's interest on the "indirect" dimensions of pregnant women's substance abuse, such as lifestyle or psychological experience of pregnancy, data are limited in the fields of psychological experience of pregnancy and relations with alcohol consumption patterns, in particular when low alcohol use doses are at

stake, even if this use pattern is totally discouraged for expected developmental consequences.

The objective is to explore attitudes about pregnancy and related patterns of alcohol consumption in a group of Portuguese pregnant women. The study group includes 222 women seeking prenatal care (childbirth preparation courses) in public health services in the north of Portugal. After a presentation of the aims of the study, and followed a written informed consent, pregnant women fulfil the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test – AUDIT (Babour, 2001) and the Pregnancy and Maternal Attitudes Scale - PMAS (Xavier, Paul & Sousa, 2001). Data concerning descriptive analysis of the group will be present. We found that 26.13% of the pregnant women continue to drink during pregnancy. Among this group who reported consumption, a majority (77.59%) reported a consumption frequency of once/month or less, and 22.41% reported use two or four times/month. No one reported a superior amount. Results also indicated that consumptions are related to differences on some dimensions of the psychological experience of pregnancy (PMAS: The Imagined Child and Body Image and Dependency subscales). Data point to the existence of consumption during pregnancy and for its relationship with dimensions of psychological experience of pregnancy, supporting the need for deepening research on the subject.