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Health service use of woman of advanced maternal age in Japan

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The number of pregnant woman aged 35 and older accounts for an increasing proportion of births in Japan. According to the statistics of “Declining Birthrate (White Paper 2015 issued by Cabinet Office)”, the average maternal age of woman who gave birth to her first child was 30.4 years old in 2014. The average maternal age in Japan has been increasing yearly. The objective of our study is to investigate health service use and selection of the medical institution by advanced maternal age in Japan by comparing pregnant women group aged less than 34 years with pregnant women group aged over 35 years. We conducted the questionnaire survey at mother’s class in Osaka, second populated city in Japan between November 2014 and February 2015. A total of 312 valid responses: 185 (59.3%) women aged less than 34 years; 127 (40.7%) women aged over 35 years. Our questions included women’s sociodemographic characteristics: age, country of birth, marital status, educational and occupational background; self-reported physical health; experience of fertility treatment; and experience of counseling service use. We focused on what evaluation items are preferred in the selection of the medical institution. Our results show that pregnant women group aged over 35 years is having more experience of fertility treatment and experience of counseling service use compared with pregnant women group less than 34 years. The difference between groups about self-reported physical health is not observed. We found the significant difference in evaluation factors between two groups in selecting medical institution.

Biography

Yukari Ito completed her PhD from Osaka School of International Public Policy. She is working as an Associate Professor at Center for International Education and Exchange, Osaka University.

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