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**Comparison of prevalence and severity of periodontal diseases in pregnant women of 20-30 years with non pregnant women of some age group and their oral hygiene practices in the Thamankaduwa MOH area in 2005**

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The effects of pregnancy on periodontal condition have been reported by a number of researchers but few studies have assessed oral hygiene practices related to periodontal diseases in pregnant women. The aim of this investigation was to compare the prevalence and severity of periodontal diseases in pregnant and non pregnant women of 20-30 years of age and to compare their oral hygiene practices. Prevalence of periodontal diseases in pregnant women and non pregnant women was 79.7 percent and 71.1 percent respectively and the difference was not statistically significant. ( $\chi^2=335$ ,  $p=0.06$ ) severity of periodontal diseases in pregnant women was significantly higher than non pregnant women.