

## **Sex and Neural Tube Defects**

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Neural tube defect syndromes (N.T.Ds) account for most congenital anomalies of the central nervous system and result from the failure of the neural tube to close spontaneously between the 3rd and 4th week of in utero development. Neural tube defects are an important cause of still-birth, in infancy period and handicaps in surviving children. It is estimated that neural tube defects affects 300,000 or more newborn world wide every year. Recent research denote to both genetic and environmental factors on occurrence of neural tube defects. This study was an analytic, case-control and retrospective one done on 51 infant with N.T.Ds and the same number of normal infants. Data were gathered by a questionnaire from both case and control groups. Doing statistical methods showed that two-third of patients were female and the most common anomaly was anencephaly. Smoking and hard jobs of father had a direct relation with the occurrence of neural tube defects in fetus. Key words: neural tube defects- sex- smoking of father.