

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

**Re: Supplementary Iron and Folic Acid
in Pregnancy**

May I be allowed to support the suggestion of Dr. Lawrence Chan that iron and folate supplements are necessary in the ante-natal period. Although this has been widely accepted and evidence of these deficiencies are in abundance, unfortunately, in this region there is a lack of evidence of folate deficiency. Moreover, it is often said that megaloblastic anaemia is rare in this region.

The results of work carried out in the University Hospital, Kuala Lumpur (Dr. L. Chan played a big part in this work) is in agreement with those presented by Dr. S. B. Kwa. Of 284

ante-natal patients with haemoglobin level of 11.0 gm./100 ml. and below; 243 (85.6%) had serum iron levels of 80 mg./100 ml. and below; 183 (68.3%) had serum folate level of 6.0 mg./100 ml. and below; vitamin B₁₂ deficiency was not encountered.

One other aspect of the safety of giving supplementary folate is that Addisonian pernicious anaemia is not only extremely rare in Singapore and Malaysia; in places where this is seen, it is seldom seen in the child-bearing age!

Yours sincerely,
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