Abstract: Despite the fact that available data are insufficient to justify herbal use during pregnancy, exposure to herbal products is frequent in these subjects. The present study was conducted to evaluate the Attitude of pregnant women about herbal medicines in Kazeroon, south of Iran.

Materials and methods: The study was conducted at the Valiasr hospital in Kazeroon, Fars, south of Iran, which is alone hospital in this city. In all 513 women were interviewed within 2 days after childbirth from September to October 2009. Data were collected through a face-to-face survey on the basis of a structured questionnaire.

Results: More than one-third of respondents [33.8%] had used herbal medicines during pregnancy. Almost 59.1% who were using herbal medicine believed that the use of herbal medicines during pregnancy is safe.

Respondents’ reasons for taking herbal medications were varied and included reasons such as herbs having better efficacy than conventional medicines [22.4%], herbs being natural, are safer to use during pregnancy than conventional medicines [70.5%], easier access to herbal medicines [22.8%], traditional and cultural belief in herbal medicines to cure many illnesses [27.3%], and comparatively low cost of herbal medicines [13.6%].

About 59.1% respondents believed herbal medicines possess no adverse effects while 27.3% were of the opinion that adverse/side effects of some herbal medicines could be dangerous. Place of living and educational qualification of respondents had statistically significant effects on respondents views on side effects of herbal medicines [p<0.05] while urban and educational qualifications seemed to have influence on respondents’ opinion on the harmful effects of herbal medicines to the fetus [p<0.05].

Conclusion: The study emphasized the wide spread use of herbal medicines by pregnant women in Kazeroon. This frequent use is worrisome. In fact, while pregnant women recognize the potential risks of drug consumption, they do not realize that herbal products, if taken incorrectly, could also be toxic. So an urgent need for health care practitioners and other health care givers to be aware of this practice and make efforts in obtaining information about herb use during ante-natal care.