

LITERATURE

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УДК 618.3:[616.98:578.834.1]

CLINICAL SYMPTOMS OF COVID PNEUMONIA DURING PREGNANCY

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Introduction

The severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) responsible for coronavirus disease (COVID-19), along with other coronaviruses, can cause a spectrum of disease manifestations ranging from the common cold to pneumonia to severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). This disease has important implications for gravid patients. Pregnancy is a unique condition with many changes in the immune system, which may lead to increased susceptibility to severe infections involving the activation of the immune system. This is highly likely to be the case in COVID-19 pneumonia as the immune system and cytokine storm play a major role in the pathophysiology [1]. Pregnant women are at greater risk for developing pneumonia presenting with fever, cough, and dyspnea when infected with COVID-19. Pregnant patients are more likely to experience severe complications such as multisystem inflammatory syndrome involving myocarditis when also suffering from COVID-19.

Aim

The purpose of this article is to compare the clinical symptoms of COVID-19 pneumonia in pregnancy among patients in both India and Belarus.

Material and methods of the research

The data were collected from the Gynecology department of PRS Hospital, India. Study was conducted from May 1st, 2020, to April 30th, 2021, at Postgraduate Institute and YCM Hospital Pimpri Pune (Maharashtra), a dedicated COVID hospital

during COVID pandemic [2]. In this clinical study 63 pregnant patients (1 group) with COVID-19 pneumonia were enrolled. For comparison, the clinical course of pneumonia for 53 pregnant patients in the Gomel city hospital 3 (group 2) was studied. Study was conducted from January 1st, 2020, to October 30th, 2021. Absolute frequencies and their share were used to describe qualitative features. The features were compared using the χ^2 method. Differences were considered significant at $p \leq 0.05$.

The results of the research and their discussion

Group 1 and 2 patients were mostly in their third trimester of pregnancy. Group 1 patients had moderate to severe pneumonia, and patients in group 2 had only moderate illness. In patients of 1 group breathlessness and myalgia were in all cases — 63 (100 %) vs. 28 (52,8 %), $p < 0,0001$ and 5 (9,4 %), $p < 0,0001$, cough in 40 cases (63,5 %) vs. 39 (73,6 %), $p = 0,24$; fever in 63 (100 %) cases vs. 38 (71,7 %), $p < 0,0001$. Only 6 patients in group 1 (9,5 %) vs. 5 (9,4 %) had loss of taste and smell. Saturation below 94 % was in 10 cases (15,9 %) and in 12 cases (22,6 %), $p = 0,35$. Chest X-ray showed bilateral lung affection in all cases in both groups. Majority of COVID-19 infection in pregnancy will be asymptomatic. Most symptomatic women experience only mild or moderate cold / flu-like symptoms. The PRIORITY (Pregnancy Coronavirus Outcomes Registry) study, an ongoing prospective cohort study of pregnant women from the United States, found the most prevalent first symptoms in infected women were cough (20 %), sore throat (16 %), myalgia (12 %) and fever (12 %). In this group of 594 symptomatic women, one-quarter had persistent symptoms 8 or more weeks after onset [3]. Our data show a higher frequency as only patients with clinical symptoms of pneumonia were included in the study.

Conclusion

The study showed that in both India and Belarus, COVID-19 pneumonia in pregnant women has similar clinical symptoms. Indian pregnant patients had higher rates of breathlessness, myalgia and fever, because this group included patients not only with moderate pneumonia but with severe forms of the disease. Pregnancy especially in third trimester may be a high-risk factor for poor maternal outcome in COVID-19 infection. The presence of any clinical symptoms of COVID-19 pneumonia increase the morbidity and mortality compared to asymptomatic infection.

LITERATURE

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