

Editorial

Maternal Risk Factors Associated with Infection-Related Stillbirths

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Generally, stillbirth is only experienced in about 1 out of every 200 pregnancies. Most stillbirths occur before delivery, however, up to 14% of all stillbirths do occur during the delivery period. Infection is an important cause of stillbirths worldwide: in low-income and middle-income countries, 50% of stillbirths or more are probably caused by infection. Infection may cause stillbirth by a number of mechanisms, including direct infection, placental damage, and severe maternal illness. A large variety of organisms have been associated with stillbirth, including many bacteria, viruses, and protozoa.

The aim of our study is to identify infection risk factors in pregnant women with stillbirths at 23 to 37 weeks of gestation.

Methods

We examined 439 pregnant women with stillbirth. We evaluated current of pregnancy and determined vaginal and amniotic infection by micro bacteriological and PCR methods.

Results

During four years occurred 18 596 deliveries. The frequency of preterm delivery was 6.9%. The incidences of stillbirths were 439 (23.6%) and among them infection - related stillbirths were 112 (25.5%) cases. Among women with stillbirth every third woman had previous history of surgery abortion or miscarriages. More than 30% of women were tobacco use.

Thus, extra genital diseases had 43.8% of women. Among them acute kidney diseases were in 3.6% of women, bacterial pneumonia was in 1.7% of women, influenza was in 3.6% of women, HIV-infection was in 3.6% of women, untreated syphilis had 4.4% of women.. Microorganisms frequently cultured in women with stillbirths included gardnerella vaginalis (34.8%), candidiasis (29.4%), trichomoniasis (10.7%), chlamydia trachomatis (12.5%), ureplasma urealiticum (21.4%), herpes simplex (7.1%) and bacterial association of few types of microorganisms.

Thus, the most cases of infected-related stillbirth occurred at the term 23-28 weeks of gestation (48.2%), at the term 28-34 weeks of gestation were 27.6%, at 37 weeks of gestation – 16.1%, > 37 weeks of gestation were only 8.1% of cases.

<i>Complications During Pregnancy</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Acute kidney diseases	4	3.6
Anemia	28	25.0
Bacterial pneumonia	2	1.7
Influenza	4	3.6
Untreated syphilis	5	4.4
HIV-infection	4	3.6
Appendectomy	2	1.7
Total	49	43.8

Table 1: The complications in women with stillbirth.

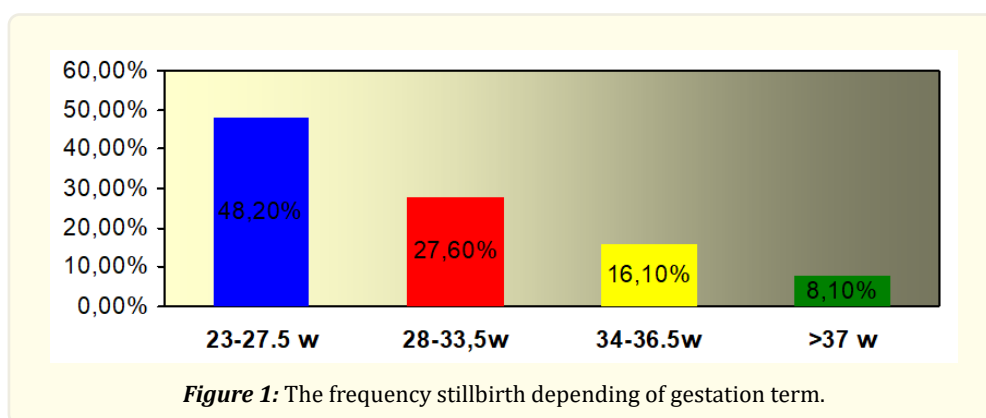


Figure 1: The frequency stillbirth depending of gestation term.

Conclusions

Thus, infection diseases in pregnant women and ascending bacterial infection is usually the most common infectious cause of stillbirth, with a number of viral infections also an important factor. Screening, prevention, and treatment of maternal infections are important to reduce stillbirth risk.