

Study of thyroid dysfunction in pregnancy

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Abstract: This study was conducted to analyze the incidence, antenatal & postnatal complications, perinatal outcome and to be advocate routine screening for thyroid disorders in pregnancy in year oct 2015 to sep 2016 at CMCH Coimbatore. This study was prospective, interventional and observational study with 50 cases which was already diagnosed or diagnosed when suspected as pregnancy with thyroid disorders. Total number of patients who were admitted in labour room with pregnancy -12873, out of these 4% aborted in the form of complete and incomplete abortion, missed abortion. 2.09% patient delivered before the completion of 37 weeks [preterm] and 0.932% patient were diagnosed as the pregnancy with intrauterine fetal demise and delivered vaginally. The commonest thyroid disorder found in pregnancy is hypothyroidism and it adversely affects the maternal and fetal health in the form of neonatal and maternal mortality and morbidity. If thyroid disorders are detected and treated either before or in early pregnancy, the adverse maternal-fetal outcome can be prevented. Hence we recommend that thyroid screening should be made universal for all antenatal patients.

Keywords: Pregnancy, hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism.

I. Introduction

Thyroid function is very intimately related to the reproductive performance in women. Both hyperthyroidism and hypothyroidism lead to menstrual irregularities; severe hypothyroidism commonly associated with ovulation failure and infertility. Ovulation and conception can occur with mild hypothyroidism, although the risk of abortion, stillbirth and prematurity are increased.

Pregnancy is associated with major changes in the physiology of the pituitary-thyroid axis and iodine metabolism. Thyroid gland increases by 10% in size during pregnancy in iodine replete areas and 20-40% in areas of iodine deficiency. Pregnancy has a goitrogenic effect on the thyroid because of the increased demand of thyroid hormones to maintain the increased maternal hormone levels and meet the requirements of the fetus.

Thyroid disease is the second most common cause of endocrine dysfunction in the women of child bearing age after diabetes. Thyroid disorder is a disorder that results when the thyroid gland produces more or less thyroid hormone than the body needs. Excess thyroid hormone is called hyperthyroidism and can cause many of the body's functions to speed up. Too little thyroid hormone is called hypothyroidism, in which many of the body's functions slow down. Subclinical hypothyroidism occurs when thyrotropin [TSH] levels are elevated but thyroxine [T4] and triiodothyroxine [T3] levels are normal.

Overt hypothyroidism in the mother is associated with significantly increased risk of miscarriages, anaemia in pregnancy, pre-eclampsia, abruption placenta and postpartum haemorrhage, premature baby, low birth weight and increased neonatal respiratory distress and more admissions to the neonatal intensive care unit.

II. Materials And Methods

This study was conducted at Govt. Coimbatore Medical College Hospital, Coimbatore. This study found 50 patients who were admitted in our hospital from oct 2015 to sep 2016 as pregnancy with thyroid disorder either already diagnosed or diagnosed when suspected. Patients were observed for obstetric and clinical history, investigations, antepartum complications, mode of delivery, postpartum complications, perinatal outcome and treatment.

III. Results And Analysis

Total number of patients who were admitted in labour room with pregnancy was 12873, out of these 4% aborted in the form of complete and incomplete abortion, missed abortion, patient delivered before the completion of 37 weeks [preterm] was 2.09% and patient were diagnosed as the pregnancy with intrauterine fetal demise -

0.932% and delivered vaginally . These entire figure show that 7.022% patient went to home without a successful outcome of pregnancy .

Thyroid disorders are among the common endocrine problems in pregnant women. It is now well established that not only overt ,but subclinical thyroid dysfunction also has adverse effects on maternal and fetal outcome. There are few data from India about the prevalence of thyroid dysfunction in pregnancy. With this background , this study aims to find prevalence of thyroid dysfunction in pregnancy and its impact on obstetric outcome and need for universal screening of pregnant women for thyroid diseases.

This study was conducted at Govt.Coimbatore Medical College Hospital ,Coimbatore . Number of patients having pregnancy with thyroid disease from oct 2015 to sep 2016 was 50 [0.388%] of total admission.In our study no of patients with hypothyroidism were very high -45 [0.349%] as compared to those with hyperthyroidism-4 [0.031%]. A single case of subclinical hypothyroidism [0.007%] was also diagnosed during our study .Similar results were found in study of Abalovich et al.[2007], they suggested that thyroid disorders are the second most common endocrinological disorder found in pregnancy next to diabetes . They found that overt hypothyroidism is estimated to occur in 0.3-0.5% of pregnancies. Subclinical hypothyroidism appears to occur in 2-3 % , and hyperthyroidism was found in 0.4%.

In our study hypothyroidism was found in 0.349% hyperthyroidism was 0.031% and subclinical hypothyroidism was 0.007% of total no of pregnant patients admitted in CMCH ,Coimbatore. Similar results were found in study of Klein et al.[1991] they found that hypothyroidism is common in pregnancy with an estimated prevalence of 2-3 % and 0.3-0.5% for subclinical and overt hypothyroidism respectively .

In our study the number of patients with subclinical hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism are less as compared to those found in literature . This difference could be explained by the lack of awareness,attendance in antenatal clinic and routine antenatal screening for thyroid dysfunction and also because this study included those patients who were already diagnosed with thyroid disorders.

In our study the prevalence of thyroid disorders was more common in the younger [20-25 year] that was 52% and primi gravid was 56%.In consistence to our study similar results were also found in study done by patowary et al. during 1998.According to them the prevalence of goiter in kamalpur district of Gauhati among 3990 population ,was 37.3% in the age group of 13-18 yerars.

Our study suggested that prevalence of previous pregnancy loss is more common in patients of pregnancy with thyroid disorder.

The prevalence of hypothyroidism in our study was highest [0.349%] as compared to other thyroid disorder. In this study the overall incidence of thyroid disorder was low [0.388%]as compared to other studies. Klein et al [1991] – found that hypothyroidism is common in pregnancy with estimated prevalence of 2-3 %.This difference is due to lack of routine antenatal screening for thyroid disorders and study was done only on already diagnosed patients.

The incidence of cesarean section was low 16% as compared to vaginal delivery 64 % in this study .The indication for cesarean section was pregnancy with BOH, GHT with IUGR was 25%,37.50%,12.50% respectively .The majority of cesarean sections were done for pregnancy with BOH and GHT.This indicates that thyroid disorders directly influences the maternal and fetal health. Hence our study shows that thyroid disorders are associated with pregnancy loss, GHT and IUGR .All these complication adversely affects the perinatal outcome.

The prevalence of anemia in our study was 60 %.Anemia is leading risk factor that is directly associated with maternal morbidity and mortality.In consistence to our study similar result were found in study of Fein and Rivlin [1975] they suggested that nutritional deficiencies are known to develop in subclinical hypothyroidism , the most recognized one is iron deficiency.The resulting anemia can be in the form of normochromic , normocystic, hypochromic ,microcystic,macrocytic or megaloblastic anemia. Anemia is estimated to affect up to 60 % of patients with hypothyroidism and is not related to severity or duration of thyroid insufficiency .

In our study 78 % of patients with thyroid disorder delivered at term , 18% patients delivered preterm and 4 % aborted before age of viability.

An article in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism, August 1997 states ,the risk of miscarriage is twice as high in women who have antithyroid antibodies than in those who do not ... and Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology 1997 states the risk of miscarriage is higher when a women is positive for antithyroid microsomal antibodies.Roberto Negro et al.[2005]- found that euthyroid pregnant women who are positive for TPOAb develop impaired thyroid function,which is associated with an increased risk of miscarriage and premature deliveries.Substitutive treatment with levothyroxine is able to lower the chance of miscarriage and premature delivery .

Total no of patient admitted in labour room	12873	%
Full term	7499	58.25%
Preterm	270	2.09%
IUD	120	0.932%
LSCS	4119	31.99%
MVA for incomplete &complete abortion ,missed abortion	516	4%
Total patients of thyroid disorders	50	0.388%
Hypothyroidism	45	0.349%
Hyperthyroidism	4	0.031%
Subclinical hypothyroidism	1	0.007%

Distribution According To Age

AGE	NUMBER	%
20-25 year	26	52%
26-30 year	18	36%
31-35 year	4	8%
>35 year	2	4%

Distribution According To Gravid

Gravida	Number	%
Primi Gravid	28	56%
Second Gravid	14	28%
Third Gravid	5	10%
Four Gravid Or >	3	6%

Distribution According To Thyroid Disorder

TYPE OF DISORDER	NUMBER	%
Hypothyroid	45	90%
Hyperthyroid	4	8%
Subclinical hypothyroid	1	2%

Distribution According Indication Of Caesarean Section

INDICATION	NUMBER	%
Pregnancy with BOH	2	25%
GHT ,preeclampsia ,eclampsia with caesarian section	3	37.50%
GHT ,preeclampsia with IUGR	1	12.50%
Nonprogress of labour	1	12.50%
Foetal distress	1	12.50%

Distribution According To Mode Of Delivery

Mode Of Delivery	Number	%
Full Term Vaginal Delivery	32	64%
Preterm Vaginal Delivery	8	16%
Iufd Vaginal Delivery	1	2%
Total Lscs	8	16%
Full Term Lscs	6	12%
Preterm Lscs	2	4%
Abortion	2	4%

Distribution According To Hb Concentration

Hb Concentration	Number Of Patient		%Hypo	Hyper
	Hypo	Hyper		
>11gms	18	2	39.13%	50%
7-10.9 Gms	25	2	54.34%	50%
4-6.9gms	3	0	6.52%	0%
<4gms	0	0	0%	0%

Distribution According To Pregnancy Outcome

GESTATIONAL AGE	NUMBER	%
Term	39	78.0%
Preterm [<37 wks]	9	18.0%
Abortion [<20 wks]	2	4.0%

Distribution According To Foetal Outcome

		%
Total live birth	47	
Live healthy baby	26	55.31%
IUGR baby	6	12.76%
Low birth baby	12	25.53%
Intrauterine fetal demise	1	2.12%
Abortion	2	4.0%
Neonatal morbidity	12	25.53%
Neonatal mortality	3	6.38%

Distribution According To Blood Pressure And Thyroid Disorder

Blood Pressure [Systolic/Diastolic]	Hypothyroidism	Hyperthyroidism	Hypothyroidism Percentage	Hyperthyroidism Percentage
110-130/90 MmHg	34	2	73.91%	50%
130-150/>90mmHg	8	1	17.39%	25%
>150/110 MmHg	4	1	8.69%	25%

Distribution According To Previous History Of Infertility And Diabetes

Type of disorder	Infertility	Diabetes	Others
Hypothyroidism	13	2	1 RHD
Hyperthyroidism	1	0	

Distribution According To Antepartum & Postpartum Complication

Complication	Number	%
Aph	1	2.0%
Pph	1	2.0%
Iugr	6	12.0%
Oligohydrominas	1	2.0%
Poly Hydrominas	1	2.0%
Ght And Preeclampsia	12	24.0%
Neonatal Mortality	3	6.38%
Maternal Mortality	0	0%
Anemia	26	52.0%

Our study also suggest that there was significant prevalence of IUGR , low birth weight ,neonatal morbidity,mortality in patients with thyroid disorder [12.76%,25.53%,25.53%,6.38%].Our study shows that there was increased association of GHT and anemia in patients with thyroid disease.These two complications are the major risk factor for development of IUGR ,low birth weight babies and prematurity in affected patients. In our study 45% of total patients of pregnancy with thyroid disorder were hypertensive ,of these 25% had severe hypertension.Maternal and perinatal morbidity increases in women with gestational hypertension .In study of Gofton et al.[2001] induction of labor and cesarean section in women with GHT were almost double as those in the normotensive.

In our study common complications occurring in patients with thyroid disorders were anemia-60% GHT-45% IUGR-25.53% LBW-25.53% neonatal morbidity and mortality was 25.53% and 6.38%.There was no case of maternal mortality in the study group. All these complication made pregnancy a high risk in those who had thyroid disorder.45% of the patients in our study had a hospital stay of seven or more days, suggested increased maternal morbidity.The present study also suggests that there is more prevalence of infertility in hypothyroid patients.

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