High Risk Pregnancy and Covid19 Pandemic

Dear Colleagues,

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that can cause illnesses such as the common cold, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS). WHO announced SARS-CoV-2, a novel coronavirus which was identified in early 2020 as the cause of a disease outbreak that originated in Wuhan, China.

The virus is now known as the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The disease it caused is called coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). In March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic.

As the number of confirmed cases increases, evidence on the transmission, incidence, and effect of SARS-CoV-2 infection in mothers and their babies remains limited. Pregnant women are not thought to be more susceptible to the infection than the general population. However, changes to the immune system mean that pregnant women may be more vulnerable to severe infection. Evidence from other similar viral illnesses, such as influenza A/H1N1 severe acute respiratory syndrome, and Middle East respiratory syndrome, suggest that pregnant women are at greater risk of severe maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality. Some evidence suggests that the risk of critical illness may be greatest in the later stages of pregnancy.

High risk pregnancy like PIH, Anemia, Ectopic pregnancy. Diabetes, Eclampsia and IUGR etc. and impact of Covid19 on these Obstetric disease, the evaluation is very important. The normal biomarker results in most cases, suggest that severe COVID-19 can lead to symptoms that mimic those of pre-eclampsia in the absence of defective placentation, which is further corroborated by the resolution of the symptoms without the delivery of the placenta when overall clinical improvement occurs. Even Gestational diabetes control was lower during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, even if follow-up was not impacted. This may be explained by reduced physical activity, modified dietary habits and anxiety during this period. Similarly COVID 19 may result in severe respiratory distress in mother resulting in low oxygen circulation, chronic exposure of such conditions to fetus may result in IUGR. Loss of follow-up due to pandemic and decreased access to people of low income to quality food at times of unemployment have also caused sharp rise in cases of Anemia associates with pregnancy where patient may or may not present with COVID-19.

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