

to understand the effect this new technology (and the uncertainty it can create) is having on couples. Previous qualitative work in this field is limited to women's experience of prenatal genetic testing or women's experience of having an abnormal ultrasound scan.

We present qualitative research from 25 semi-structured interviews with women (and their partners) whose babies have fetal anomalies after CMA testing. Data was analysed using framework analysis. A thematic framework was then identified by recognising emerging themes. Five themes were identified; diagnosis, genetic testing, family and support, reflections of the treatment received and emotions.

Our results show that women recall being told about common trisomies but often no further testing. Women expected the conventional karyotyping and CMA result would be normal following a normal QFPCR result. There were frequent misconceptions by couples regarding aspects of counselling/testing. Communication of variants of unknown (clinical) significance (VOUS) presents a particularly difficult challenge. Good clear communication by health care professionals is paramount. Couples should have literature to take home summarising scan anomalies and reinforcing information about genetic testing.

PF31 VITAMIN B12 DEFICIENCY AND RECURRENT PREGNANCY LOSS: IS THERE AN ASSOCIATION?

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Introduction The importance of preconceptional folic acid has been established. However the metabolism of folate and Vitamin B12 is interlinked. Weak association has been described between Vitamin B12 deficiency and recurrent pregnancy loss. This has led to the implementation in some centres of routine B12 levels in patients with recurrent pregnancy loss. Our goal is to determine the value of such testing and its role in the management of these cases.

Aim To determine whether the incidence of folate and/or Vitamin B12 deficiency is higher in patients with recurrent pregnancy loss than the reported national incidence of deficiency.

Methods Retrospective review of all new referrals to the recurrent miscarriage clinic at the Rotunda Hospital Dublin. Vitamin B12 and folate levels were assessed at the initial consultation.

Results National B12 levels and folate levels were accepted as 6% based on new nutritional data. We evaluated the folate and cobalamin status in 98 non-pregnant women with a history of recurrent spontaneous abortion (three or more consecutive) of unknown aetiology. Low Vitamin B12 was defined as serum value less than 190 ng/l, and serum folate values less than 4.5 ug/l were considered deficient.

In total 7.1% (n = 7) patients were Vitamin B12 deficient and only one patient was folate deficient. This compares with a national incidence of 6%. These levels were not statistically different.

Conclusion Serum concentrations of folic acid and Vitamin B12 are not significantly altered in women with unexplained recurrent miscarriage and we propose that routine testing is not warranted.

PF32 PARTIAL URORECTAL SEPTUM MALFORMATION (PURSM) SEQUENCE IN ENGLAND AND WALES: PREVALENCE, ADDITIONAL ANOMALIES, AND PREGNANCY OUTCOME

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Background Partial urorectal septum malformation (pURSM) sequence (or 'persistent cloaca') is a rare congenital anomaly

characterised by a confluence of the urethral, anal, and genital openings. This study describes the prevalence, additional anomalies, and pregnancy outcomes of pURSM sequence in England and Wales.

Methods All cases of pURSM sequence notified to seven congenital anomaly registers in England and Wales during 1985–2010, whether delivered as live births, spontaneous fetal deaths (≥ 20 weeks gestation), or elective terminations of pregnancy for fetal anomaly (any gestation), formed this population-based case series. Risks of spontaneous fetal and infant death were examined by the Kaplan-Meier method. Differences in prevalence over time, and between regions, were examined by multilevel Poisson regression.

Results 117 cases were recorded among 4,251,241 total births. 58 (50%) were delivered as live births, 6 (5%) as spontaneous fetal deaths, and 53 (45%) as elective terminations. The total prevalence was 2.8 (95% CI: 2.3–3.4) per 100,000 total births, increasing significantly over time ($p = 0.002$) and differing significantly between regions ($p = 0.005$). 77 cases (66%) had at least one additional major congenital anomaly outside the perineum, including 67 (57%) with renal, 29 (25%) with musculoskeletal, 26 (23%) with digestive system, and 24 (21%) with cardiovascular anomalies. The risks of spontaneous fetal and infant death were estimated as 8.9% (95% CI: 4.1–18.8) and 26.3% (95% CI: 15.1–43.4) respectively.

Conclusions This is the largest study of the epidemiology of pURSM sequence. This information should be valuable for families and health professionals whenever a case of pURSM sequence is diagnosed.

PF33 WITHDRAWN BY AUTHOR

PF34 EFFECT OF ANTIHYPERTENSIVE THERAPY ON UTERINE ARTERY AND FETAL DOPPLERS: SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

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Introduction Antihypertensive drugs lower blood pressure by direct vascular effects or central vasodilatory mechanisms. Methyldopa is a commonly used in hypertensive disorders in pregnancy. Although methyldopa is effective in controlling maternal blood pressure, its effects on fetal growth and wellbeing is unknown. The aim of this study was to ascertain the effect of methyldopa on uterine artery and fetal dopplers in women with hypertensive disorders in pregnancy.

Methods MEDLINE (1966 – March 2012), EMBASE (1974 - March 2012) and The Cochrane library (inception–March 2012), utilising combinations of the terms methyldopa, hypertens*, pre-eclamp*, preeclamp*, pre eclamp*, pregnan*, uterine, uteroplacental, umbilical, middle cerebral artery and doppler. Between-study heterogeneity was assessed using the I^2 statistic.

Results The search yielded 429 citations. Full manuscripts were retrieved for 32 and 6 were included in the review and meta-analysis. Six studies (n = 188) have reported the effect of methyldopa on uterine artery doppler pulsatility index (PI). The standardised mean difference (SMD) was -0.22 (95% CI: -0.43 to -0.02). Five studies (n = 110) were included that evaluated the effect of methyldopa on umbilical artery Doppler PI. The SMD was -0.05 (95% CI: -0.32 to 0.21). Four studies (n = 82) reported the effect of methyldopa on middle cerebral artery PI. The SMD was -0.34 (95% CI: -0.65 to 0.03).

Conclusion In pregnancies complicated by hypertension, methyldopa seems to have a small favourable effect on uterine artery dopplers. These results provide reassurance that the maternal hypotensive effect of methyldopa is unlikely to have a clinically significant adverse effect on the pregnancy.