

Pregnancy in women with PCOS

To the Editor:

I read the article by Palomba et al. (1) with great interest. This is the first study that investigates the pregnancy outcomes according to different phenotypes of polycystic ovary syndrome. They conclude that “The increased risk for adverse obstetric or neonatal outcomes, which are observed in women with PCOS, varies widely according to their different PCOS phenotypes and features.” Although it is clear that the results are attractive, some of the data in this paper need further clarification.

As illustrated in table 4 of the Palomba et al article (1), this study consists of 93 polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) patients (14 full-blown, 7 non-PCO, 5 non-hyperandrogenic and 63 ovulatory). As I can understand from table 4, in the group of 14 patients with full-blown features of PCOS, 9 pregnancies ended with miscarriage (this means 64.3 % miscarriage rate in this category). In the remaining 5 patients, GDM and PIH occurred concomitantly and PE occurred in 4 patients. It means that all the patients demonstrated one of the complications of pregnancy (100%). Although it is a very high complication rate, one can assume that this could be attributed to the low number of cases in this study. But the other parameters in this category are confusing. Antepartum hemorrhage

occurred 9 of 14 patients, SGA in 6 of 14, LGA in 3 of 14, APA in 6 of 14 (this means there is 15 babies), and operative delivery in 12 of 14 patients. How are these numbers possible in the 5 remaining patients? The numbers in the other categories are also confusing. While it is possible to make mistakes in tables, if the mistakes affect the conclusions of the study, these confusing data must be clarified.

I appreciate the authors’ hypothesis and their 5-year effort on this study, but with the small number of patients (especially in subgroups), it is impossible to draw solid conclusions regarding the relationship between pregnancy complications and the different phenotypes of PCOS.

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January 7, 2011

doi:10.1016/j.fertnstert.2011.01.144

REFERENCE

1. Palomba S, Falbo A, Russo T, Tolino A, Orio F, Zullo F. Pregnancy in women with polycystic ovary syndrome: the effect of different phenotypes and features on obstetric and neonatal outcomes. *Fertil Steril* 2010;94:1805–11.