Gestational Diabetes Mellitus: increased incidence during the COVID-19 pandemic

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INTRODUCTION

Several studies reported an increased incidence of gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) during the COVID-19 pandemic. We describe our monocentric cohort of GDM patients in 2021 and compare it with a previous cohort of 2017.

MATERIAL & METHODS

We performed a review of the inpatient clinic pregnancies that presented between January 1st and March 31st, 2021. We reported the main issues regarding the GDM in mother-baby dyads during the COVID-19 pandemic, and subsequently compared them with a previous similar study before the COVID-19 crisis (October 1st to December 31st, 2017).

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

There were 110 GDM pregnant patients (13.44%) in the 2021 COVID-19 cohort, versus 94 (6.2%) in the 2017 cohort. A chi-square test of independence was performed to examine the relation between GDM and COVID-19 pandemic: the relation between these variables was significant, \( X^2 = 34.9823, \ p < 0.00001 \).

We also compared the incidence of neonatal macrosomia, and the test revealed a significant relation, \( X^2 = 5.9452, \ p = 0.014758 \). The COVID-19 pandemic impacted negatively health of pregnant women, with a major increase on the incidence of GDM worldwide. We depict a glance of such negative effects of the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic and show an increase in local incidence of two majors items: GDM and macrosomia.

CONCLUSION

The global COVID-19 pandemic led to an exponential increase in GDM cases, including in middle-income countries. These cases seem to be associated with negative outcomes, particularly for the newborn.

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