ABSTRACT

Background
Elderly pregnancy leads to many complications during pregnancy, labour and also for the baby. Delayed pregnancy can also have ectopic pregnancy and also cause complication during pregnancy and health risks in the child. Older the women, higher the risk and abnormalities in the child leading to Down’s syndrome, premature baby, low birth weight baby.

Aims and objectives
To determine pregnancy outcome between women aged 40 years & above.

Material and Methods
Total 100 pregnant women of age 40 or above having gestational age in between 28-42 weeks attending labour ward & in patient department of obstetrics & gynaecology Ummaid hospital, attached Hospital of S. N. Medical College, Jodhpur were enrolled in study.

Result
In about 100 cases studied, 66 needed inductions of labour, 62 delivered by Caesarean section, 58 had low birth weight babies while 40 babies were admitted in ICU. The most common medical complication associated in elderly gravida is Diabetes followed by Anaemia, Essential or chronic hypertension, hypothyroidism etc. along with various fetal complication.

Conclusion
Material complications were more during pregnancy in advanced maternal age requiring increased need for induction of labour & caesarean section. There was increase in perinatal mortality and morbidity in advance maternal age.

KEYWORDS
Pregnancy outcome, Complication, Advanced maternal age, Caesarean

INTRODUCTION

Once a woman ages, her chances of conceiving automatically decreases, as most fertility experts agree that fertility actually decreases with age as the age of fertility is defined and vary according to individual. Delayed pregnancy is found in present scenario because women are involved in their career and various other problems, creating lot of risks. Elderly Gravida or late pregnancy occurs due to late marriages, women in education & career, Infertility, Lack of knowledge, Lack of interest in family planning methods or Eagerness for male child.

Delayed pregnancy is associated with the risk of miscarriage, which is believed to increase with age; it is 15% at the age of 35 years while it is 30% at above 40 years. Studies have also showed that ectopic pregnancy is also a complication of delayed pregnancy. Advanced maternal age beyond 35 years is considered to have more complicated pregnancy outcomes as compared younger gravid. Many studies have documented the more impact to have more complicated pregnancy outcomes as compared younger gravid.

RESULT

In about 100 cases studied, 66 needed inductions of labour, 62 delivered by Caesarean section, 58 had low birth weight babies while 40 babies were admitted in ICU. The most common medical complication associated in elderly gravida is Diabetes followed by Anaemia, Essential or chronic hypertension, hypothyroidism etc. along with various fetal complication.

Table 1: Status of delivery of Elderly Gravida

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status of Delivery</th>
<th>Number (Percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy needed inductions of labour</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy delivered by Caesarean section</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy having low birth weight babies</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babies admitted in ICU</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Maternal medical complications associated in Elderly Gravida

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maternal Medical Complication</th>
<th>Number (Percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential / Chronic Hypertension</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Total 100 pregnant women of age 40 or above having gestational age in between 28-42 weeks attending labour ward & in patient department of obstetrics & gynaecology Ummaid hospital, attached Hospital of S. N. Medical College, Jodhpur were enrolled in study.

Inclusion criteria:
- Married women who are in the reproductive age group irrespective of parity
- Married women who are present at the time of data collection.
- Married women who are willing to participate in the study.

Exclusion criteria:
- Married women who have undergone permanent sterilization.
- Married women who have attained menopause.
that 30.76% of patients with advancing age were delivered by Caesarean section as compared to 16.02% in younger age group. Jahan MK et al. also observed that the rate of caesarean section was more among the cases with advancing age. Achanna S et al. found an increased incidence of breech presentation (6.78%) vs. 3.33%) and Caesarean sections (74.6% vs. 10%) among the elderly gravida. In our study the incidence was higher due to patient age of 40 years or more as compared to the most study group having age of 35 years or more.

CONCLUSION
Maternal complications were more during pregnancy in advanced maternal age requiring increased need for induction of labour & caesarean section. Therefore advance maternal age is definitely a high risk group with lots of maternal perinatal complications but these problems can be overcome and one can expect a good pregnancy outcome.

REFERENCE
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