

What are the risks of COVID-19 infection in pregnant women?

Jie Qiao commenting on the article “Clinical characteristics and

intrauterine vertical transmission potential of COVID-19 infection in nine pregnant women: a retrospective review of medical records”

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SARS-CoV-2 has a similar receptor binding domain structure to that of SARS-CoV-1. This may imply that SARS-CoV-2 infection might have a similar pathogenesis to SARS-CoV-1 infection. The risk of vertical transmission is low in SARS-CoV-1 hence the same risk is expected in SARS-CoV-2 infections.

Previous studies have shown that SARS during pregnancy is associated with a high incidence of adverse maternal and neonatal complications, such as spontaneous miscarriage, preterm delivery, intrauterine growth restriction, application of endotracheal intubation, admission to the ICU, renal failure, and DIC.

Study population: 9 women with COVID-19 pneumonia

Conclusion:

1. No evidence of vertical transmission of SARS_CoV2 virus
2. No evidence of the presence of SARS-CoV-2 viral particles in the products of conception or in neonates
3. Pregnant women with COVID-19 infection had fewer adverse maternal and neonatal complications and outcomes than would be anticipated for those with SARS-CoV-1 infection.