

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

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SEX + GENDER

Exploring the role of sex and gender on health research



CHR D 2020: Abstract Submission Form

Submitter Name

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Title

A cross-sectional evaluation of fetal ultrasound utilization and acuity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Background

With the WHO's declaration of a global pandemic due to Sars-CoV-2 in March, prenatal care schedules were modified in order to reduce the number of in-person visits and ultimately, the spread of this deadly virus. However the impact of these changes on access to fetal ultrasound and perinatal outcomes remains unknown.

Objective

To evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on fetal assessment utilization and acuity of cases seen.

Methods

This was a cross-sectional study from a single, tertiary care center. The COVID Period (March-May 2020) was evaluated and compared with the preCOVID Period (March-May 2019). Data were abstracted from electronic fetal assessment records, and level of acuity assigned by 2 independent observers to insure inter-observer reliability. 'High Acuity' was defined by assessments resulting in direct admission to hospital or triage, urgent delivery, and/or diagnosis of stillbirth. 'Moderate Acuity' was assigned to cases where increased surveillance was recommended. 'Low Acuity' designated routine follow-up. Volumes and outcomes were then compared between time periods.

Results

Over 5804 scans reviewed and there were fewer scans during COVID Period (n=2877) compared to preCOVID Period (n=2927), despite increasing annual volumes. Despite this decrease in volume, there was a significant increase in the acuity of patients seen during the pandemic: 5.3% of scans in 2020 were indicated as high acuity versus 3.3% in 2019 (p=0.0005). There were significantly fewer referrals for diabetes and other maternal medical conditions, particularly gestational diabetes (GDM), perhaps owing to modifications to GDM-screening using HbA1C during the pandemic. There was also a trend towards an

increased number of stillbirths during the COVID Period.

Conclusion

The impact of the pandemic, as well as modifications to the normal prenatal care schedule and particularly the modality of screening for GDM, warrants closer evaluation as we prepare for the 2nd wave of the pandemic.

Theme:

Clinical

Do you have a table/figure to upload?

No

Are you willing to participate in Goodbear's Den?

Yes

Presenter Status:

Undergraduate Students

What was your role in the project?

Perform Experiments

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