DOI

HEPATITIS A AND PREGNANCY

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INTRODUCTION

Viral hepatitis A proceeds as an acute disease and does not enter the chronic stage, however, in 10-15% of patients it may recur [24]. Rarely, in about 0.05-0.5% of patients, viral hepatitis A can be complicated by a fulminant course [25, 26].

Significant risk factors for the development of this complication include the patient's age, long-term alcohol and/or drug use, coinfection with viral hepatitis B and/or C, coinfection of several HAV genotypes[27], immunodeficiency conditions, diabetes mellitus [28-31]. Unlike viral hepatitis E, pregnancy does not increase the likelihood of a lightning-fast course of hepatitis A [1, 26].

Predicting the fulminant course of viral hepatitis A is a difficult task, however, laboratory predictors of this complication have been proposed in some studies: high peak creatinine levels (HR =4,014, 95% CI: 1,706 – 9,442; P = 0.001), bilirubin (OR = 1,153, 95% CI: 1,050 – 1,265; P =0.003), ALT (OR = 1.001, 95% CI: 1,000 – 1.001;P < 0.001), LDH (HR = 1,000, 95% CI: 1,000 –1,000; P = 0.045) and total cholesterol (OR =0.978, 95% CI: 0.967 – 0.989; P < 0.001) [31].

Diagnosis of viral hepatitis A is based on the detection of specific antibodies in the blood to CAA of the IgM class or, if it is impossible to determine, by increasing the titer of specific IgG in paired serums by at least 4 times. With a prolonged course of the disease, it is recommended to conduct a molecular genetic study CAA RNA as the most sensitive indicator of virus replication [1].

Acute viral hepatitis A during pregnancy can potentially complicate its course and worsen the outcomes of childbirth [19]. In a retrospective study of 79,458 pregnant women, it was revealed that pregnant women who became ill were more likely to experience premature rupture of the fetal bladder, premature birth in the range from 31 to 37 weeks of gestation, premature detachment of the normally located placenta and postpartum bleeding. The authors did not register a single case of intranatal and perinatal infection, all women were healthy at the time of discharge [19].

Similar data were obtained in a retrospective study of 85 patients, which was conducted in Korea: in women with acute viral hepatitis A, premature rupture of the fetal bladder, fetal distress and low birth weight were more often observed [32]. Despite the fact that infected women CAA is found in breast milk, there is currently no convincing data proving the possibility of transmission of the virus to a newborn during breastfeeding [33]. Therefore, nursing patients with viral hepatitis A should be recommended to continue breastfeeding in compliance with hygienic precautions [33, 34]. As an additional protection for newborns, it is recommended to administer immunoglobulin or, if the child is more than 12 months old, a vaccine against HCV, the safety and effectiveness of which for children has been proven in several large reviews [33, 35, 36].

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KNOWLEDGE

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