

ENDOMETRIOSIS: A SURVEY ON ITS EFFECT ON FERTILITY AND PREGNANCY



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Introduction

The endometriosis is a chronic inflammatory disease characterized by the presence of endometrial like tissue in pelvic and extra-pelvic regions. This condition affects 10-15% of women in their reproductive age. One of the consequences of this pathology is infertility, presented by 30-50% of affected women. The endometriosis is also considered as a possible cause of adverse pregnancy outcomes such as placenta previa. Despite the fact that the pregnancy effects on endometriosis patients seem to depend on the individual, pregnancy is also considered a possible way to reduce symptoms. The aim of the study was to examine the incidence of infertility and the actual correlation between endometriosis and pregnancy among affected patients in order to confirm of confute current data.

Patients and methods

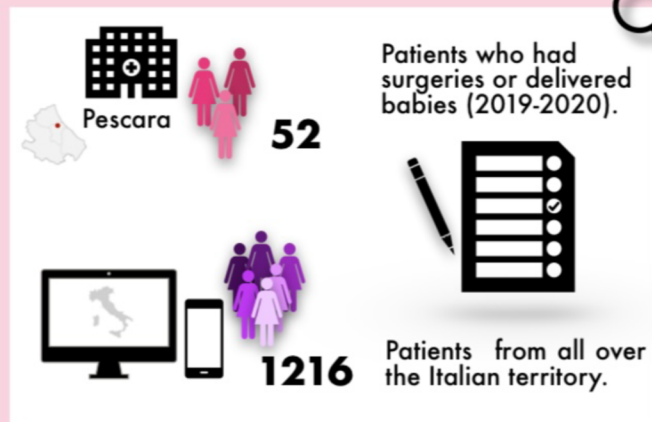


Figure 1. Questionnaire in Pescara and in Italian territory

The survey was performed via anonymous questionnaire (Figure 1.) under different aspects: type of surgery sustained, how many pregnancies, infertility, problems during delivery, miscarriages, use of MAP techniques, situation after pregnancies, other problems. After pregnancies analysis was possible to be observed only in Pescara patients thanks to a direct approach. Data were collected into appropriate Excel files (Figure 2. A).

Results

Among Pescara patients, a percentage of 37% of them suffers or had suffered from infertility (46% considering women who are aware about their fertility situation). National study shows a percentage of 29% of infertile women, mostly because 46% of patients are not aware about their fertility situation (value can increase). Data regarding the situation after pregnancy in Pescara study are able to show us that a 54% of women showed a worsening of the pathology and 35% an unchanged situation (already severe). Only 11% referred and improvement (Figure 2. B). There were observed no case of placenta previa and no particular prenatal outcomes related to endometriosis situation. National study shows in women with difficult pregnancies (n= 80 on 392) a percentage of 14% of placenta previa, 32% of fetal insufficiency and 9% of problems related to the cordon.

Conclusions

The data obtained are able to allow us to confirm the pre-estimating data about reduction of fertility in women affected by endometriosis. The results on pregnancy

effect show that it is not possible to consider this condition a probable cure for endometriosis. Concerning placenta previa and prenatal problems, the findings of both studies suggest that there is no direct correlation with endometriosis and insurgence of such problems.

(A)

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with columns for Patient ID, Age at diagnosis, Endometriosis diagnosis, and Status of cases. The data is organized into rows, with some cells highlighted in green and others in red.

(B)

After pregnancy situation in Pescara patients

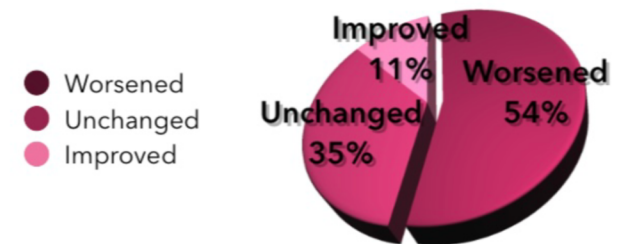


Figure 2. Extract of the Excel file used to collect the data obtained with the questionnaires (A); Graph of situation after pregnancy in Pescara patients (B).

Acknowledgments: The authors would like to thank the Gynecology and Obstetrics Unit of the Hospital Unit of Pescara for letting them conduct the survey.

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