

Features of the Course of Pregnancy in Pregnant Women with Fetal Growth Restriction Syndrome and the Role of Doppler Velocimetry

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Annotation: The analysis of somatic, gynecological pathology, peculiarities of the course of pregnancy in 50 pregnant women was carried out, 30 women of them were diagnosed with fetal growth restriction syndrome, and the remaining 20 were conditionally healthy pregnant women. For instrumental diagnostics, ultrasound dopplerometry was performed to assess utero-placental-fetal blood circulation. As a result of our research, it was revealed that among somatic and gynecological diseases there is a high frequency of anemia of moderate and severe degree, acute respiratory infections, COVID-19 and inflammatory diseases of the pelvic organs, and dopplerometry revealed an increase in the systolic-diastolic ratio, pulse index and resistance index in women with fetal growth retardation syndrome.

Keywords: fetal growth restriction syndrome, uteroplacental circulation, ultrasound dopplerometry.

Introduction. Fetal growth restriction syndrome (FGRS) occupies a huge place among the causes of perinatal morbidity and mortality.[4] This term refers to a decrease in the main photometric indicators and the body weight of a newborn below 10 percentiles relative to the proper values for a given gestational age or a lag of indicators from the proper ones for 2 weeks or more. According to the results of many studies, the risk factors for the occurrence of FGRS are divided into: maternal factors (hypertension during pregnancy, preeclampsia, gestational diabetes mellitus, lung disease, anemia, chronic renal failure, antiphospholipid syndrome, malnutrition and bad habits), fetal factors (genetic diseases, congenital malformations, intrauterine infections, multiple pregnancy pregnancy) and placental factors (placental insufficiency)[2]. In 35-40% of cases, occurs FGRS with maternal pathologies such as: pregnancy hypertension, preeclampsia, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes mellitus, as well as women with a low socio-economic level have a high risk.[1].

WHO data show that the number of newborns with fetal growth retardation syndrome in Central Asian countries reaches 31.1%. At the same time, these figures are much lower in developed European countries (up to 6.5%). In Russia, according to various authors, this syndrome is observed with a frequency of 2.4-17% of cases.[3,5,6].

According to the types of growth disorders, the following clinical forms of FGRS are distinguished:

- hypotrophic form, characterized by a predominant deficiency of body weight and clinical signs of reduced nutrition;
- hypoplastic form, in children with a relatively proportional decrease in all parameters of physical development;
- dystrophic form, characterized by pronounced imbalances, physique disorders, trophic disorders and edema against the background of a decrease in all parameters

The pathogenesis of FGRS is a violation of uteroplacental circulation, which leads to a violation of the metabolism and functional state of the fetus and newborn[8]. At the same time, there are violations of the transport, trophic, hormonal, metabolic, and antitoxic functions of the placenta underlying the pathology of the fetus and newborn[9]. The dopplerometry technique is the leading method of studying blood circulation in the functional mother-placenta-fetus system and provides for obtaining curves of blood flow rates, calculating vascular resistance indices, and analyzing the results obtained. The carbon-independent indices of vascular resistance are determined: pulsation index, resistance index, systolic-diastolic ratio.[7]. According to the classification of disorders of uteroplacental and fetal-placental circulation, there are three degrees of severity of hemodynamic disorders:

Grade I: A – violation of uteroplacental blood flow with preserved fetoplacental blood flow, B – violation of fetoplacental blood flow with preserved uteroplacental blood flow;

Grade II: simultaneous violation of uteroplacental blood flow and fetoplacental blood flow, not reaching critical changes (end-diastolic blood flow is preserved);

Grade III: critical disorders of fetoplacental blood flow (absence of blood flow or reverse diastolic blood flow) with preserved or disturbed uteroplacental blood flow.[5].

Goal. To study the features of the course of pregnancy in women with fetal growth retardation syndrome.

Materials and methods of research. To achieve this goal, we examined 50 pregnant women who were admitted to the city maternity complex of the city of Bukhara. All the examined pregnant women were divided into 2 groups: the main group consists of 30 pregnant women with fetal growth retardation syndrome and the control group consists of 20 conditionally healthy pregnant women.

The results of the study and their discussion.

The collection and analysis of somatic and gynecological anamnesis, the peculiarities of the course of pregnancy, as well as ultrasound dopplerometry of utero-placental-fetal blood flow for the prediction of fetoplacental system disorders were carried out. The results of the study and their discussion. All the examined pregnant women were aged 19 to 35 years, the average age of women in the main group was 25.2 ± 1.0 years, and in the control group 24.5 ± 1.2 years. All women were examined in the third trimester at a gestation period of 32 to 40 weeks. When studying the parity of the surveyed women, it was revealed that in the main group, the first-time pregnant women (22/43.3%) were less than the second-time pregnant women (28/56.7%), and in the control group, on the contrary, the first-time pregnant women (30/60%) were more than the second-time pregnant women. During the study of gynecological history, the percentage ratio in both groups was the same: chronic inflammatory diseases 17%, erosion 8%, fibroids 3%. The results of the study of the somatic anamnesis and the specific course of pregnancy are given in Tables No. 1 and 2.

Table №1: Somatic analyses of the examined pregnant women

Diseases	Main group		Control group	
	Absolut number	%	Absolut number	%
Anemia	17	48.5	7	35

Acute respiratory disease	10	28.5	5	25
COVID- 19	5	14.2	2	10
Urinary tract infection	3	8.5	3	15

According to Table No. 1, it can be seen that anemia and inflammatory diseases prevail among the somatic diseases of pregnant women.

Table No.2. Features of the course of pregnancy

	Main group		Control group	
	Absolut number	%	Absolut number	%
Pregnancy toxicosis	12	28.4	5	25
Threatening abortion	11	28.2	3	15
Preeclampsia	9	23	3	15
Discharge of amniotic fluid	4	10.2	2	10
Premature birth	6	15	1	5

According to the results of the table, it can be judged that the course of pregnancy of women in the main group is more burdened than in the control group. In the main groups, as the severity of SORP worsened, there was an increase in the number of detected ultrasound markers and the number of pregnant women with different ultrasound markers. This is, to a greater extent, seen by the decrease in the buccal index below 10 mm (in group I - 20 (44%), in II - 38 (73%), and in III - 42 (100%) pregnant women), to a lesser extent, by the presence of placental hypoplasia (in group I - 4 (22.2%), in II - 16 (38.4%), and in III - 24 (80%) pregnant women. A decrease in the buccal index is associated with underdevelopment of subcutaneous fat in fetuses with SORP, and placental hypoplasia is associated with placental insufficiency. Lack of water was found in group I in 3 (16.7%), in group II in 10 (23.8%), and in group III in 13 (43.3%) pregnant women. Moreover, the amniotic fluid index (AML) was moderate in group I from 5 to 8 cm, in group II from 2 to 5 cm, and expressed in group III less than 2 cm.

According to Fig.1, it can be judged with dysfunctional placental conditions in pregnant women of the main group, placental calcification occurs with a high frequency-86%, early placental aging - 74% and placental hypoplasia-33%. And low localization, placental edema and early maturation occur with lower frequency compared to the above. At the same time, placental calcification occurs in 12% of women in the control group, placental edema - 1%, placental hypoplasia-3%. Here we can conclude that in patients with a diagnosis of fetal growth retardation syndrome, cases of placental dysfunction are high.

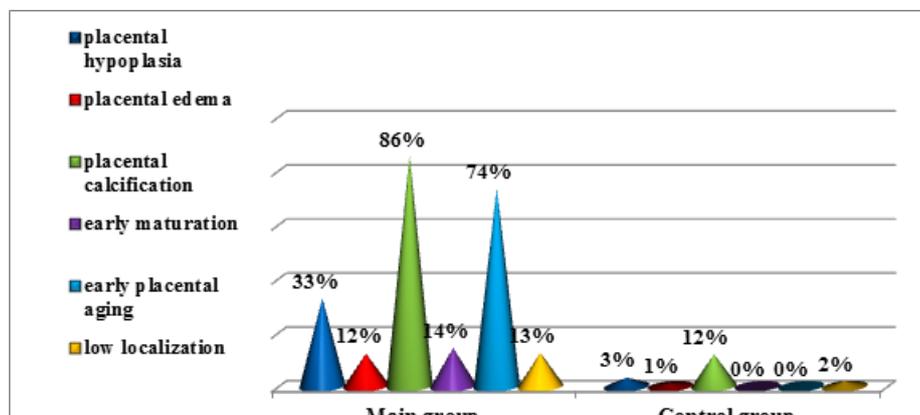


Fig.1-Ultrasound features of placenta in analysed groups

During ultrasound Dopplerometry, the changes in indicators in each vessel had their own characteristics. Thus there was gradual increase 1.2 times more in the systolic-diastolic ratio, pulse index and resistance index of the uterine arteries and the umbilical artery of pregnant women of the main group, compared to the indicators of the control group, while the same indicators in the middle cerebral artery decreased slightly and here we can see the compensatory mechanism of the body.

Since the patients of the main group had different degrees of hemodynamic disorders in the arteries of the functional mother-placenta-fetus system, we analyzed their occurrence. Among 30 patients of the main group, hemodynamic disorders of placental circulation were absent in 4 (13.3%) pregnant women at the time of the study, The I degree of hemodynamic disorders were found in 10 (33.3%) patients, of which fetal hypotrophy was noted in 4 (40%) ; II degree - in 5 (16.7%), of which fetal hypotrophy was noted in 3 (60%) ; III degree - in 7 (23.3%), of which 5 (71.4%) have fetal hypotrophy, 4 (13.3%) patients have critical blood flow disorders, of which 3 (75%) have fetal hypotrophy (Fig.2).

We had analysed of the results of the Doppler study of placental blood flow by comparing the values of vascular resistance indicators in the main arteries such as uterine, umbilical and middle cerebral arteries. In the patients of the main group in the uterine arteries and umbilical cord arteries, vascular resistance indicators were higher than in pregnant women of the control group.

The study of these indicators in the middle cerebral artery shows minor changes compared to women in the control group. Thus, fetuses of patients of the main group with the same frequency had different degrees of hemodynamic disorders of placental circulation - from the first to critical. Dopplerometric parameters of blood flow in the middle cerebral artery of fetuses of the main group were less than similar parameters in pregnant women of the control group.

Conclusion.

Thus, according to our research, pregnant women in our region at 28-32 weeks of gestation have a high incidence of moderate and severe anemia, acute respiratory infections, COVID-19 and inflammatory diseases of the pelvic organs, among somatic and gynecological diseases, which are the cause of incomplete invasion of the trophoblast in the first trimester of pregnancy and the development of fetal growth retardation syndrome. As a result of our Doppler studies conducted from 28 to 32 weeks of pregnancy, the features of circulatory disorders in the "mother-placenta-fetus" system with fetal growth retardation syndrome were established. With fetal growth retardation syndrome, ultrasound dopplerometry of the fetoplacental complex is not always reliable. However, our studies revealed a significant increase in the value of in systolic-diastolic ratio, pulse index and resistance index the umbilical cord arteries, which is an indicative indicator of fetal growth retardation syndrome and the use of this method in early pregnancy allows the prediction and diagnosis of dysfunction in the placental system, as well as the correction of these disorders occurring in the mother-placenta-fetus system.

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