

2019-nCoV epidemic: what about pregnancies?

On Feb 3, 2020, WHO confirmed 17238 cases of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infections in China. Among them, 2296 (13%) cases were reported as severe, and 361 deaths were declared (2%).¹

Members of the coronavirus family responsible for severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS-CoV) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS-CoV) are known to be responsible for severe complications during pregnancy.^{2,3}

12 pregnant women were infected with SARS-CoV during the 2002–03 pandemic.² Four (57%) of seven women in the first trimester had a miscarriage. In the second to third trimester, two (40%) of five women had fetal growth restriction, and four (80%) of five women had preterm birth (one spontaneous; three induced for maternal condition). Three (25%) women died during pregnancy.

In a review of 11 pregnant women infected with MERS-CoV,³ ten (91%) presented with adverse outcomes, six (55%) neonates required admission to the intensive care unit, and three (27%) died. Two neonates were delivered prematurely for severe maternal respiratory failure.

Considering that the 2019-nCoV seems to have a similar pathogenic potential as SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV,⁴ pregnant women are at increased risk of severe infections, there are no specific clinical signs of coronavirus infections preceding severe complications,⁵ coronaviruses have the potential to cause severe maternal or perinatal adverse outcomes, or both,^{2,3} and the current lack of data on the consequences of a 2019-nCoV infection during pregnancy, we recommend systematic screening of any suspected 2019-nCoV infection during pregnancy. If 2019-nCoV infection during pregnancy is confirmed, extended follow-up should be recommended for mothers and their fetuses.

We declare no competing interests.

Guillaume Favre, Léo Pomar,
Didier Musso, *David Baud
david.baud@chuv.ch

Materno-fetal and Obstetrics Research Unit,
Department Woman-Mother-Child, Lausanne
University Hospital, 1011 Lausanne, Switzerland
(GF, LP, DB); Laboratoire Eurofins Labazur Guyane,
Cayenne, French Guiana (DM); and Aix Marseille
Université, IRD, AP-HM, SSA, VITROME,
IHU-Méditerranée infection, Marseille, France (DM)

- 1 WHO. Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). Situation report—14. Feb 3, 2020. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200203-sitrep-14-ncov.pdf?sfvrsn=f7347413_2 (accessed Feb 3, 2020).
- 2 Wong SF, Chow KM, Leung TN, et al. Pregnancy and perinatal outcomes of women with severe acute respiratory syndrome. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2004; **191**: 292–97.
- 3 Alfaraj SH, Al-Tawfiq JA, Memish ZA. Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infection during pregnancy: report of two cases & review of the literature. *J Microbiol Immunol Infect* 2019; **52**: 501–03.
- 4 Mahase E. China coronavirus: what do we know so far? *BMJ* 2020; **368**: m308.
- 5 Huang C, Wang Y, Li X, et al. Clinical features of patients infected with 2019 novel coronavirus in Wuhan, China. *Lancet* 2020; published online Jan 24. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)30183-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30183-5).



Published Online
February 6, 2020
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)30311-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30311-1)

Submissions should be made via our electronic submission system at <http://ees.elsevier.com/thelancet/>