

ABORTIONS — AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN RURAL AREA

USHA R. RAO • KUNTAL RAO

SUMMARY

The various features of unwanted pregnancies in the teenage group and their management protocol, relevant to our South Kanara District, rural area are analysed.

353 cases of teenage abortions in the last 90 months are included, in this study. 70.5% were unmarried, Peak incidence is in 17-18 years age. Most of the abortions are in the second trimester. The methods used for termination of pregnancy are intra-amniotic saline instillation, ethacrynidine dye instillation (extra amniotic), prostaglandins both by intra-amniotic and intra-muscular route.

Incidence of Rh-ve single primis is 40%, Grade III septic abortions in single primis is 8.83%, hysterectomy for gross sepsis in single primi is 2.40%.

The total number of women who were given prostaglandins for second trimester termination of pregnancy were 89, of whom 26 were unmarried and 63 were married. Intramuscular route was employed in 12 unmarried women and all the 63 married women. This was undertaken as a study protocol and drugs were supported by Upjohn Company. Intramniotic prostaglandin instillation was done in 14 unmarried primigravidae.

Introduction

Abortion in teenagers is a global problem. In spite of Medical Termination of Pregnancy being legalised we are still encountering second trimester abortions. From the various features, 353 cases of

teenage abortions, the management protocol relevant to our South Kanara District, rural area has been analysed.

Materials and Methods

During the period of 90 months (January 1981 to June 1988) the total number of MTPs were 3,796 in K.M.C. Hospital and MTP in rural population was 3,492 (91.9%). 353 cases of teenage abor-

*Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology,
Kasturba Medical College, Manipal.*

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tions were registered. 249 were unmarried. More than 51% of these abortions among teenage group belonged to Karnataka and 39% from other State. Only 9% of unmarried adolescent abortion group belonged to Kerala due to high literacy among women (Table I). It is the middle class which is most vulnerable than upper and lower class (Table II).

TABLE - I

Ethnic Group	Unmarried		Married	
	No.	%	No.	%
Karnataka	128	51.40	57	54.80
Kerala	23	9.23	5	4.80
Others	98	39.35	42	40.38

TABLE - II

S.E. Group	Unmarried		Married	
	No.	%	No.	%
High	48	19.27	5	4.80
Middle	131	52.61	62	59.61
Low	70	28.11	37	35.05

Lowest age group recorded among unmarried group was a 12 year old girl (Photo) who had 3 MTP's, while in married group, in between 15-16 years of age. Maximum number of cases came to us between 18-22 weeks of period of gestation in married and unmarried group.

In spite of wide publicity regarding MTP facilities were only have few cases who came before 10 weeks of pregnancy in this age group (Table III).

TABLE - III

Period of gestation	Unmarried		Married	
	No.	%	No.	%
10	8	3.21	1	0.96
10 - 14	15	6.02	3	2.88
14 - 18	73	29.31	31	29.80
18 - 22	153	61.44	69	66.34

Most of the patients in our study were in second trimester, Intra-amniotic saline instillation was the method of termination in 37.9% cases, Emcredyl dye instillation in 29% cases. Prostaglandins were given in 25.2% cases. Cost factor prevented us from using PG in many more patients (Table IV).

The induction abortion interval was shortest in the group where prostaglandins were used. In the intra-amniotic instillation of prostaglandins all patients aborted within 24 hours. In the group where intra amniotic instillation of prostaglandins was used all patients aborted within 24 hours. In the group where intra amniotic saline and emcredyl dye instillation was done 74.61% and 75.95% aborted within 48

TABLE - IV

Method	Unmarried		Married		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Vacuum Aspiration	8	2.20	1	0.20	9	2.5
L.T. Insertion	15	6.02	2	0.05	17	4.8
I.A. Saline	109	30.08	25	7.08	134	37.9
Emcredyl dye extra amniotic	91	25.07	13	3.07	104	29.0
Prostaglandin						
Intra-muscular = 12	26	13.01	63	12.01	89	25.2
Intra-amniotic = 14						

TABLE - V
INDUCTION - ABORTION INTERVAL

Duration hours	I.A. Saline		Emcredyl dye		Prostaglandin			
	No.	%	No.	%	I.M.		I.A.	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
24	18	13.43	2	1.92	30	40	14	100
26 - 36	43	32.08	36	34.61	45	60	—	—
36 - 48	57	42.53	43	41.34				
48 - 96	16	11.94	16	15.38				

hours (Table V). The incidence of Group III septic abortions among teenage primis were 8.83%, hysterectomy for gross sepsis was done in single primis in 6 cases. These cases were referred from outside.

Discussion

Our study has revealed about abortion problems in rural area. Saha (1984), Das and Mukhopadhyaya (1972) have also shown similar trends in 70.2% and 68% among rural population. In spite of wide publicity through Newspaper, Television, Radio etc., we are still encountering II Trimester abortions. Factors responsible for unwanted pregnancy in these teenagers is not financial but lesser female literacy, unemployment, psychological factors like neglect, home environment etc.

Conclusion

1. The incidence of mid trimester abor-

tions have not shown any reduction even after legalisation of abortion.

2. Intra amniotic saline for second trimester induction still has an important place in our set up.
3. Prostaglandins though ideal the cost factor and at present non-availability poses a formidable problem.
4. Incidence and its aftermath are comparable to Western studies.
5. Our indepth study has revealed socio-medical aspects of this problem.
6. Incidence of teenage abortions is low, where female education is high like in Kerala.

References

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