

Solid Cancers during Pregnancy in Latvia

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Introduction. Pregnancy-associated cancer is defined as a malignancy detected during pregnancy or within two years of delivery. The incidence of cancer diagnosed in pregnant women is 1 : 1000 pregnancies. The most common cancers associated with pregnancy are cervical and breast cancer, melanoma, lymphomas and acute leukemia. Optimal treatment involves balancing the benefit of treatment for the mother and minimizing harm to the fetus. Both surgery and chemotherapy are generally safe during pregnancy, whereas radiation therapy is contraindicated. Iatrogenic prematurity is the most common pregnancy complication.

Aim, Material and Methods. The aim of the study was to clarify the situation with pregnancy-associated cancer in Latvia – common types, treatment options and effects on pregnancy. This was a retrospective study of pregnant cancer patients treated at Oncology Centre of Latvia over a seven years period, from 2009 to 2015.

Results. The total number of pregnant women with cancer is 8. The common types were breast cancer (3), cervical cancer in situ (3), invasive cervical cancer (1) and kidney cancer (1). Patients' age varied between 27 and 42 years (median = 34.4). The average gestational age, when cancer was diagnosed, was 15.6 gestational weeks. All cases were diagnosed during the I or II trimester (I trimester – 2, II trimester – 6). All women had had delivery before. In 6 cases suspicion of malignancy was discovered during antenatal care checkup, in 2 cases women had previous history of premalignant condition. The treatment of cancer in all cases included surgery (radical hysterectomy, electro-conization, breast sector resection, breast quadrantectomy, axillary lymphadenectomy, nephro-adrenalectomy), for breast cancer – chemotherapy (in 1 case – started before delivery, in 2 cases – started after delivery) and radiation therapy (started after delivery). Pregnancy was terminated in 2 cases – when diagnosis was invasive cervical cancer and cervical cancer in situ. For 3 women preterm childbirth was recommended due to start chemotherapy and radiation therapy as soon as possible.

Conclusions. Cancer in pregnancy poses significant challenges to both the clinician and the mother. All women after the age of 30 before pregnancy counting should be checked at least for breast and cervical health.

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