Pregnancy Outcome in women with Epilepsy

Assistant Professor Dr. E Al-Kamil, Assistant Professor S Sharif, Assistant Professor M Sharif

Kufa Medical J. 2005;8 (1):209-216

Abstract:

Method: This is a case-control study. The study involved 91 epileptic women (cases) compared to 90 normal women (controls), they were matched regarding age & parity.

Aim: carried out to study the association between pregnancy outcome & epilepsy.

Results: The study found that the risk of having abnormal outcome among women with epilepsy is 6 times the risk of women without epilepsy (Odd’s ratio = 6), CI of Odd’s at 95% confidence limit was 14.9-2.4, with a highly statistically significant difference (P<0.01), where abortion, ectopic pregnancy, intra uterine death and congenital anomalies were significantly higher among cases than controls (P<0.01). Also the study found that the risk of abnormal outcome was significantly higher among cases on anti-epileptic treatment than those who had no treatment (Odd’s ratio = 3.7), CI of Odd’s at 95% confidence limit was 2.1-6.5. Also the risk was higher among cases on polytherapy than those on monotherapy and among those with longer duration of the disease. The majority of epileptic women had normal vaginal delivery.

Recommendations: The study recommended appropriate care of women with epilepsy includes consultation and co-management with an obstetrician and a neurologist. Seizures control to reduce the risk by using a single anti-epileptic drug at a lowest effective dosage, pregnancy in women with epilepsy should be planned pregnancy in order that the maximum benefits of preconception care can be obtained, folic acid administration peri-conceptionally to decrease the risk of congenital anomalies and frequent ultrasound examination for the detection of congenital malformations.