Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

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The aim of the study was to understand how pregnant people and new parents experience health and health services while incarcerated in federal prisons for women with respect to participation in the institutional Mother Child Program (MCP).

Methods: The study uses a qualitative case study design. Semi-structured interviews were conducted in person or by phone with 23 participants. Participants including people who experienced federal incarceration during pregnancy or the early parenting years and community advocates. The sample included people who did and did not participate in the institutional MCP and from each of the 6 federal prisons for women.

Results: The major themes in the analysis include: 1) Reasons why- and why not- to participate in the MCP; 2) Mothering from inside; 3) Health care experiences; and 4) Strategies and survival. This study is the first to explore the health experiences of federally incarcerated mothers with respect to the Mother Child Program. Participants experience separation as traumatic and are denied postpartum care. Reproductive mental health concerns were met with punishment and prioritization of pharmacological treatment over counselling. Study participants navigated challenges through self-advocacy.

Conclusions: MCP fails to address the health harms of maternal incarceration. Alternatives to incarceration are recommended.

Keywords: prison; maternal health; qualitative research; reproductive justice

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Detection of SARS-CoV-2 Contamination in the Operating Room and Birthing Room Setting:

Risks to Attending Health Care Workers

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Objectives: The exposure risks to front-line health care workers (HCWs) who are in close proximity for prolonged periods of time, caring for COVID-19 patients undergoing surgery or obstetrical delivery, is unclear. Understanding of sample types that may harbour virus is important for evaluating risk. The objectives are as follows: to determine if SARS-CoV-2 viral RNA from patients with COVID-19 undergoing surgery or obstetrical delivery is present in: 1) the peritoneal cavity of males and females 2) the female reproductive tract, 3) the environment of the surgery or delivery suite (surgical instruments, equipment used, air or floors) and 4) inside the masks of the attending health care workers.

Methods: In this cross-sectional study, conducted at 2 Toronto hospitals, 32 patients with COVID-19 underwent urgent surgery or obstetrical delivery and the presence of SARS-CoV-2 viral RNA in patient, environmental and air samples was identified by real time reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction. Air samples were collected using both active and passive sampling techniques. The primary outcome was the proportion of HCW masks positive for SARS-CoV-2 RNA.

Results: SARS-CoV-2 RNA was detected in 20/332 (6%) patient and environmental samples collected: 4/24 (16.7%) patient, 5/60 (8.3%) floor, 1/5 (19%) air, 10/23 (43.5%) surgical instruments/equipment, 0/24 cautery filters and 0/143 (95% CI 0–0.026) inner surface of mask samples.

Conclusions: While there is evidence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA in the surgical and obstetrical operative environment, the finding of no detectable virus inside the masks worn by the medical teams would suggest a low risk of infection for our health care workers using appropriate personal protective equipment.

Keywords: SARS-CoV-2 viral RNA; PPE; exposure risk; health care workers; real time RT-PCR; environmental and air sampling; operating room exposure; delivery room exposure

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How Common are Uterine Doppler Abnormalities for Pregnant Patients with Elevated Maternal Serum Alpha-Fetoprotein (MS-AFP)?

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Objectives: To determine the frequency and perinatal factors associated with abnormal uterine dopplers after unexplained elevations in MS-AFP.

Methods: This was a historical cohort study of singleton pregnancies with elevated MS-AFP (2012–2019). All pregnant patients with elevated MS-AFP levels referred to prenatal genetics during the study period were eligible for inclusion and identified using a clinical database. Post-processing review of stored ultrasound images from mid-pregnancy were performed by 2 blinded and independent observers to record outcomes of uterine Doppler studies (presence/absence of notching and mean pulsatility indices) and linked to information about maternal demographics, pregnancy complications, and MS-AFP levels in the genetics database. Descriptive and inferential statistics were then used to compare outcomes between groups (explained vs. unexplained MS-AFP; normal vs. abnormal uterine Dopplers).

Results: From 2203 referrals, 872 singleton pregnancies were included in the final analysis (440 Explained and 432 Unexplained MS-AFP elevations). There were no obvious differences in maternal characteristics between groups. In the Unexplained MS-AFP group, 56.2% had normal uterine Dopplers compared to 43.8% with abnormal uterine Dopplers. Interestingly, there was no difference in MS-AFP level between those with normal versus abnormal uterine Dopplers. Multiparous patients were more likely to have normal uterine Dopplers, but there were no other differences in maternal or pregnancy characteristics.

Conclusions: There was no difference in MS-AFP level between the normal and abnormal uterine Doppler groups, and future work is needed to evaluate the clinically utility of uterine Dopplers in risk stratification of this potentially high-risk group.

Keywords: prenatal diagnosis; maternal serum screening; uterine Doppler

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The Effect of Pelvic Inflammatory Disease on Risk of Endometriosis: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

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Objectives: To systematically review the evidence for the association between previous pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and endometriosis.

Methods: The electronic databases Ovid Medline, EMBASE, and Cochrane libraries as well as grey literature was searched. We