The Impact of Covid-19 Vaccination on Pregnant Women and Their Infant

Khitam Khalis Al-Masoudi [*1] , Nada Jasim AL-Karawi [1] , Aya s. Kareem [1]

[1]Department of Microbiology, College of Medicine, University of Kerbala, Iraq

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Abstract

A family of viruses known as the Coronaviridae causes a variety of upper respiratory tract diseases in people, the most severe of which include pneumonia, multiorgan disease syndrome, and acute respiratory distress syndrome. The COVID-19 virus is transmitted from person to person through respiratory droplets. Pregnant women who experience immune system changes are more susceptible to infectious diseases, COVID-19 symptoms, and the risk of adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes, including preterm and underweight birth, spontaneous abortion, endotracheal intubation, intrauterine growth retardation, intensive care unit admission, kidney failure, intravascular coagulopathy, and transmission to the fetus or neonate. Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 can lower the risk of A retrospective cohort study done in the United States found that pregnant women and their babies were at risk of getting COVID-19. When pregnant women get vaccines, the amount of antibodies in their blood goes up. These antibodies can be passed on to the foetus during the second and third trimesters of pregnancy and protect it during the first few months of life. Maternal and umbilical cord blood anti-spike IgG levels were highest after early third-trimester vaccination.. maternal vaccination offers passive protection against symptomatic infection until newborns are old enough to receive vaccinations.

Keywords: Covid-19, Vaccine, Pregnant Women and Infant

Introduction

In China's Hubei province, Wuhan experienced an epidemic in December 2019. Following the diagnosis of the first case of pneumonia (pulmonary inflammation), the World Health Organization (WHO) announced a pandemic in March due to the speed global prevalence of "acute respiratory syndrome-coronavirus" disease (WHO,2022).

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious ailment induced by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Patients may experience severe illness necessitating medical intervention. (Ibrahim et al., 2022).

This virus causes a variety of respiratory conditions. There is an increase in morbidity and mortality among expectant mother's (Obaid et al., 2022) . On the other hand, Venous thromboembolism is made more likely by COVID-19, even in milder forms, especially in women who have not had the vaccination. also, placental thrombosis is encouraged by COVID-19, which may result in trophoblast malfunction and injury. This event is the last common pathway that contributes, to varying degrees, to a number of negative outcomes, such as preterm birth, preeclampsia, and fetal growth restriction. It is more prevalent in pregnant women with COVID-19 (Cavoretto & Farina, 2024) .

Pregnant women with a severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection face an elevated risk of hospitalisation., intensive care unit stay, and mortality than their nonpregnant counterparts (Gray et al., 2021) .

Negative consequences for both the mother and the unborn child are linked to COVID-19 during pregnancy, including hypertensive diseases, preterm birth (especially with iatrogenic aetiology), gestational diabetes, fetal distress, and decreased fetal growth (Cavoretto & Farina, 2024) . vaccination has been shown to reduce the risks of severe disease during pregnancy and to provide additional protection from complications in newborns (Kharbanda et al., 2023) .

In December 2020, the United Kingdom became the first government to begin a nationwide COVID-19 vaccination campaign. The UK government suggested a longer separation of up to 12 weeks between the first and second doses, in contrast to the 3–4 week gap used in clinical studies, to enable a quicker rollout of the first dose (Blakeway et al., 2022) . Currently, the majority of health authorities approve the COVID-19 vaccine's safety for expectant mothers. (Rimmer et al., 2023) .

Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine at any point during pregnancy is safe and recommended. Research has indicated that maternal antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 are present at delivery regardless of when the vaccination was administered, and that maternal and umbilical cord antibody scale increase with gestational age at immunization up to 34 weeks (Gray et al., 2021).

The aim of this study was to see if there would be a link between getting a COVID-19 booster shot in early pregnancy and having a miscarriage. This was done by adapting a method that has already been used to look into the safety of COVID-19 vaccinations during pregnancy.

Description of COVID-19

A family of viruses known as the Coronaviridae causes a variety of "upper respiratory tract" diseases in people, the most serious of which include pneumonia, multiorgan disease syndrome, and acute respiratory distress syndrome (Moriarty et al., 2024) .

COVID-19 is a non-segmented, single-stranded ribonucleic acid (RNA) virus, producing infections from the simple common cold to severe serious infections. The genome of COVID-19 shares around 80% of SARS-CoV and around 50% of the Middle East respiratory syndrome-related to coronavirus (MERS-CoV), respectively (Wan et al., 2020) .

COVID-19 is characterized by 4 genetic materials: a spike protein, the envelope, a membrane, and the nucleocapsid (Obaid et al., 2022) . the favorable area of COVID-19 is the lung zone. COVID-19 attaches to the host receptor. Next the successful bound to the receptor of the host's cell, then the protein's spike experiences a conformational change for the viral envelope in order to bind to the cell membrane to release RNA into the host cell, this progress happens by the endosomal pathway. As soon as RNA goes into the host cell, then the viral replicates, that are fragmented into smaller units by enzymes named proteinases (Cavoretto & Farina, 2024) . The particles of the virus were translated into viral proteins by mRNAs and collected into virions on the endoplasmic reticulum and Golgi apparatus wherever they were secreted out of the cell by vesicles. Next of releasing, it is entered into the lung specifically into the alveoli, then into endothelial and blood cells. This results in activation of the immune system (Shereen et al., 2020) .

COVID-19 infection spreads from individual to individual by respiratory droplets the modifications in the immune system of mothers during the pregnancy period make them more vulnerable to infectious diseases, symptoms of COVID-19, with the hazard of negative maternal and newborn complications, preterm and underweight birth, spontaneous abortion, applied of endo-tracheal intubation, intrauterine growth retardation, admission to the intensive care unit, kidney failure, intravascular coagulopathy, and spread to the fetus or neonate (Wang et al., 2020) .

Covid-19 vaccines

During the present global COVID-19 pandemic, vaccination is crucial for stabilizing the disease and boosting herd immunity (Moriarty et al., 2024) . hospitalization and death are among the serious COVID-19-related outcomes that are prevented by COVID-19 vaccinations. As "SARS-CoV-2" has changed and declining vaccination efficacy has been observed, vaccine composition and regulations have been modified to continue protecting from COVID-19-related serious disease and death (Regan et al., 2023) .

The development of COVID-19 vaccines has never accelerated at this rate before, thus the developments are encouraging, The COVID-19 vaccines fall into four primary classifications and are developed on various platforms, vaccines made from entire viruses, proteins, viral vectors, and nucleic acids are the first four types (Ndwandwe & Wiysonge, 2021) .

Covid-19 vaccines in pregnancy

In order to preserve maternal homeostasis and promote ideal fetal development, the immune system experiences substantial regulation during pregnancy in addition to physiological alterations, Because of these changes, women are more susceptible to bacterial and viral illnesses (Properzi et al., 2024) .

A retrospective cohort study in the United States of 1332 vaccinated pregnant patients and 8760 partially vaccinated or unvaccinated pregnant patients found that vaccinated patients were less likely to get severe COVID-19, which is defined as respiratory failure, septic shock, or multiple

organ failure. During the first 20 weeks of pregnancy, a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series was 32% effective. After 21 weeks and up to 14 days before birth, it was 80% effective. The study indicated that vaccinating mothers while they were pregnant cut the risk of infants under 6 months old needing to go to the hospital for COVID-19 by 61%. This breakdown of gestational age should be taken with a grain of salt because the confidence intervals are so wide. In general, getting two doses of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine while pregnant seems to minimise the number of babies under six months old who had to go to the hospital for COVID-19. (Badell et al., 2022; Razzaghi et al., 2023) .

Compared to unvaccinated women, pregnant women who receive the COVID-19 vaccine have a lower risk of contracting the virus and their unborn children. pregnant women with full or increased immunization status had lower odds of serious morbidity and sequelae (Cavoretto & Farina, 2024) .

Pregnancy-related immunization was defined as any vaccination administered between the dates of conception and delivery, the two mRNA vaccines produced by Pfizer-BioNTech (BNT162b2) and Moderna (mRNA-1273) were advised for use in pregnant women (Norman et al., 2024) .

Timing of vaccination

The number of mRNA vaccine doses received prior to pregnancy (0, 1, 2, 3, or 4), during pregnancy (0, 1, 2, or 3), according to the manufacturer of the vaccine, mast be the time record from conception to the final vaccination (days), from the last vaccination to delivery (days) were noted (Norman et al., 2024) .

During seven crucial months, vaccinations in New York City alone avoided almost 300,000 cases, 50,000 hospitalizations, and 8,500 fatalities (Shoukat et al., 2022) . In order to address the decline in severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) antibody levels, booster vaccination is required for long-term protection (Cavoretto & Farina, 2024). It is unclear, therefore, when it is best to provide yearly booster shots, the significant spatial heterogeneity in incidence that SARS-CoV-2 exhibits complicates it (Townsend et al., 2025) .

Covid-19 vaccines in prevention of maternal and infant infection

Pregnancy-related vaccination was linked to decreased risks of newborn mortality and nontraumatic cerebral hemorrhage. Furthermore, vaccination during the second trimester was linked to a lower risk of hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy and cerebral ischemia. There was no discernible difference in any newborn outcomes between the two groups (Cardemil et al., 2024; Norman et al., 2024) .

The concentration of antibodies rises when pregnant women receive vaccinations; these antibodies can be passed on to the fetus throughout the second and third trimesters of pregnancy and offer protection during the first few months of (Bednarek & Laskowska, 2024; Jorgensen et al., 2022) .

After getting vaccinated in the early third trimester, maternal and umbilical cord blood anti-spike IgG levels were highest. Women who had been infected with SARS-CoV-2 before pregnancy and received an early pregnancy immunisation had an antibody response in their maternal and cord blood that was similar to that of women who had not been infected with

SARS-CoV-2 and received a third-trimester vaccination. A third-trimester booster shot was connected to higher levels of maternal anti-spike IgG than a third-trimester vaccine in women who had or had not had SARS-CoV-2 infection before (Y. J. Yang et al., 2022) . Infants born to mothers who had a breakthrough infection during pregnancy after getting a preconception vaccination had the highest levels of SARS-CoV-2 IgG and cross-neutralizing antibodies against different variations. This was not the case for mothers who only had one of these characteristics. The amount of anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies that could be passed from mother to child through the placenta declined a lot with age, going from 3.16 ODs at birth to 2.29 ODs at two months and staying that way for roughly four months after birth. (Y. Yang et al., 2024) .

Infants with higher transplacental binding and nAb titers had a significantly lower chance of contracting SARS-CoV-2, and a booster dose increased protection through an omicron predominance period. During early infancy, maternal vaccination offers passive protection against symptomatic infection until newborns are old enough to receive vaccinations (Cardemil et al. 2024).

Covid-19 vaccine side effects in pregnancy

GRADE was used to analyze published evaluations of the safety and VE of earlier vaccination formulations, the probability level (excessive, moderate, low, or very low) that the genuine influence is near the estimated effect is determined by the GRADE. While evidence containing observational data starts at low certainty, evidence containing just randomized controlled experiments starts at high precision. benefits of bivalent vaccination were evaluated among adults and adolescents Employing aggregated prospective VE data for three conclusions: COVID-19-related hospital stay, COVID-19-related dying, and medically attended COVID-19. 53% (95% CI = 50%–56%) of hospitalizations were attributable to COVID-19, and 48% (95% CI = 30%–61%) were attributable to medically attended COVID-19. The certainty assessment for both important outcomes was low. the certainty rating was quite low due to significant concerns about inconsistency, and the pooled VE against mortality attributable to COVID-19 was 61% (95% CI = 41%–74%). Although a thorough review of the benefits could not be conducted due to insufficient observational data on neonates and children, benefits were implicitly inferred from data on adults and adolescents. Research from the Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD), a post-authorization vaccine safety surveillance system, was utilised to evaluate the incidence of severe complications, specifically cardiac disease, pericarditis, and allergic reactions, which were the outcomes specified for GRADE, associated with vaccination due to significant concerns. (Wan et al., 2020; Y. J. Yang et al., 2022) .

Myocarditis, primarily in male teenagers and young adults, has been associated with the COVID-19 vaccination. According to the survey, adults and teenagers had low certainty assessments, while newborns and children had very low assessments. Serious responses grade ≥3 local or systemic reactions following any initial dosage of monovalent primary series were evaluated using pooled data from clinical trials; the clinical trial body of evidence's certainty evaluation was low due to the substantial concern for indirectness in both age groups; and the vaccine study arms reported more serious reactions than the placebo study arms. The evidence profile for GRADE is visible at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/recs/grade/covid-19-2023-2024-Monovalent.html.

Our search yielded 12 studies assessing side effects following pregnant COVID-19 immunization. Within the first three days following vaccination, mild to moderate symptoms

are typically experienced following the COVID-19 vaccine. The majority go away one to two days following the vaccine. Severe and more frequent symptoms are linked to the second dose. The side effect profile of vaccines during pregnancy appears to be comparable to that of non-pregnant individuals, with the most common symptoms being myalgia (Badell et al., 2022; Gerede et al., 2024) .

Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy in pregnancy

The World Health Organisation (WHO) says that vaccine hesitancy is "a delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccination, despite availability of vaccination services" (WHO, 2022). WHO named vaccination hesitancy one of the top 10 global health challenges in 2019.(Comparcini et al., 2024; de Albuquerque Veloso Machado et al., 2021).

Lack of knowledge about national guidelines and physician support for pregnant vaccinations may affect acceptance. Advanced practitioners, obstetricians/gynecologists, and midwives are among the maternal health professionals who mostly depend on advice from Agreed comments in favor of immunization from major organizations including "the American College of Obstetrics" and "Gynecology (ACOG) "and "the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine" (sMFM).(Filip et al., 2024; Moriarty et al., 2024) .

More than 120 countries have made it clear that pregnant women should have the COVID-19 vaccine, whereas 64 other countries let pregnant women to get the vaccine but have not made any formal recommendations9. The vaccine can be administered to specific groups of pregnant people in nine countries, including healthcare workers and pregnant people with chronic diseases, although no specific recommendation has been made(Casubhoy et al., 2024) .

Conclusion

An extremely difficult time for the mother's body is pregnancy. Immunological tolerance toward the fetus is a prerequisite for the maternal immune system, which lowers the body's resistance to diseases like COVID-19. The most effective way to prevent infections during pregnancy and lactation is to be vaccinated. It was concluded from the study discussed in this article that pregnant women and their unborn children are less susceptible to COVID-19 when they receive the immunization. maternal vaccination offers passive protection against symptomatic infection until newborns are old enough to receive vaccinations.

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