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Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Pregnancy: Risk Factors and Associations with Adverse Maternal and Neonatal Outcomes

Justin S. BRANDT, MD, Jennifer HILL, MD, Ajay REDDY, MD, Meike SCHUSTER, DO, Haylea S. PATRICK, MD, Todd ROSEN, MD, Mark V. SAUER, MD, MS, Carla BOYLE, RN, Cande V. ANANTH, PhD, MPH

PII: S0002-9378(20)31134-0

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2020.09.043>

Reference: YMOB 13520

To appear in: *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*

Received Date: 11 August 2020

Revised Date: 21 September 2020

Accepted Date: 24 September 2020

Please cite this article as: BRANDT JS, HILL J, REDDY A, SCHUSTER M, PATRICK HS, ROSEN T, SAUER MV, BOYLE C, ANANTH CV, Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Pregnancy: Risk Factors and Associations with Adverse Maternal and Neonatal Outcomes *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* (2020), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2020.09.043>.

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CRediT author statement

Justin S. BRANDT: conceptualization, methodology, formal analysis, data curation, writing – original draft, writing – review and editing, supervision; **Jennifer HILL**: data curation, writing – review and editing; **Ajay REDDY**: data curation; **Meike SCHUSTER**: data curation, writing – review and editing; **Haylea S. PATRICK**: writing – review and editing; **Todd ROSEN**: writing – review and editing; **Mark V. SAUER**: writing – review and editing; **Carla BOYLE**: writing – review and editing; **Cande V. ANANTH**: methodology, formal analysis, writing – review and editing

1 **Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Pregnancy:**

2 **Risk Factors and Associations with Adverse Maternal and Neonatal Outcomes**

3
4 Justin S. BRANDT, MD,¹ Jennifer HILL, MD,¹ Ajay REDDY, MD,²

5 Meike SCHUSTER, DO,¹ Haylea S. PATRICK, MD,¹ Todd ROSEN, MD,¹

6 Mark V. SAUER, MD, MS,³ Carla BOYLE, RN,⁴ Cande V. ANANTH, PhD, MPH⁵⁻⁸

7
8 **Affiliations**

- 9 1. Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and
10 Reproductive Sciences, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 11 2. Division of Neonatology, Department of Pediatrics, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical
12 School, New Brunswick, NJ
- 13 3. Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Rutgers Robert Wood
14 Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, NJ
- 15 4. Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick, NJ
- 16 5. Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and
17 Reproductive Sciences, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 18 6. Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Rutgers School of Public Health, Piscataway,
19 NJ
- 20 7. Cardiovascular Institute of New Jersey, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New
21 Brunswick, NJ

22 8. Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute (EOHSI), Rutgers Robert Wood

23 Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, NJ

24

25 The authors report no conflicts of interest.

26

27 No financial support was necessary for the preparation of this manuscript or acquiring data.

28

29 **Correspondence**

30 Justin S. Brandt, MD

31 Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine

32 Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences

33 Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

34 Tel: (732) 235-6375

35 Email: jsb288@rwjms.rutgers.edu

36

37 Word counts: Abstract 413; Manuscript: 3168

38 Tables: 5

39 Figures: 0

40 **Condensation:** Pregnant patients with severe/critical COVID-19 are at increased risk for adverse
41 maternal and neonatal outcomes, whereas patients with mild disease appear to have similar
42 outcomes compared to matched controls.

43

44 **Short Title:** Case-control study of COVID-19 in pregnancy

45

46 **AJOG at a Glance**

47 1. Why was the study conducted?

48 The study was conducted to quantify the magnitude of risk of adverse maternal and
49 neonatal outcomes associated with COVID-19 in pregnancy versus unaffected pregnant
50 women and characterize the epidemiology and risk factors for adverse outcomes.

51 2. What are the key findings?

52 COVID-19 in pregnancy is associated with adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes, and
53 this association is primarily driven by morbidity associated with severe/critical disease.

54 Black and Hispanic patients with obesity, advanced maternal age, medical comorbidities,
55 and antepartum admissions related to COVID-19 have the greatest risk of associated
56 complications.

57 3. What does this study add to what is already known?

58 The study quantifies the magnitude of adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes
59 associated with severe/critical COVID-19 compared to unaffected pregnant women
60 during pregnancy.

61

62

Abstract

63 **Background:** COVID-19 may be associated with adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes in
64 pregnancy, but there is little controlled data to quantify the magnitude of these risks or to
65 characterize the epidemiology and risk factors.

66 **Objective:** To quantify the associations of COVID-19 with adverse maternal and neonatal
67 outcomes in pregnancy and to characterize the epidemiology and risk factors.

68 **Methods:** We performed a matched case-control study of pregnant patients with confirmed
69 COVID-19 (cases) who delivered between 16 and 41 weeks' gestation from March 11-June 11,
70 2020. Uninfected pregnant women (controls) were matched to COVID-19 cases on a 2:1 ratio
71 based on delivery date. Maternal demographic characteristics, COVID-19 symptoms, laboratory
72 evaluations, obstetrical and neonatal outcomes, and clinical management were chart
73 abstracted. The primary outcomes included (i) a composite of adverse maternal outcome,
74 defined as preeclampsia, venous thromboembolism, antepartum admission, maternal intensive
75 care unit admission, need for mechanical ventilation, supplemental oxygen, or maternal death;
76 and (ii) a composite of adverse neonatal outcome, defined as respiratory distress syndrome,
77 intraventricular hemorrhage, necrotizing enterocolitis, five-minute Apgar score <5, persistent
78 category 2 fetal heart rate tracing despite intrauterine resuscitation, or neonatal death. In order
79 to quantify the associations between exposure to mild and severe/critical COVID-19 and
80 adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes, unadjusted and adjusted analyses were performed
81 using conditional logistic regression (to account for matching), with matched-pair odds ratio
82 (OR) and 95% confidence interval (CI) based on 1000 bias-corrected bootstrap resampling as
83 the effect measure. Associations were adjusted for potential confounders.

84 **Results:** 61 confirmed COVID-19 cases were enrolled during the study period (mild disease:
85 n=54, 88.5%; severe disease: n=6, 9.8%; and critical disease: n=1, 1.6%). The odds of adverse
86 composite maternal outcome were 3.4 times higher among cases compared to controls (18.0%
87 versus 8.2%, adjusted OR 3.4, 95% CI 1.2-13.4). The odds of adverse composite neonatal
88 outcome were 1.7 times higher in the case group compared to the control group (18.0% versus
89 13.9%, adjusted OR 1.7, 95% CI 0.8-4.8). Stratified analyses by disease severity indicated that
90 the morbidity associated with COVID-19 in pregnancy was largely driven by the severe/critical
91 disease phenotype. Major risk factors for associated morbidity were Black and Hispanic race,
92 advanced maternal age, medical comorbidities, and antepartum admissions related to COVID-
93 19.

94 **Conclusions:** COVID-19 during pregnancy is associated with increased risk for adverse maternal
95 and neonatal outcomes, an association that is primarily driven by morbidity associated with
96 severe/critical COVID-19. Black and Hispanic race, obesity, advanced maternal age, medical
97 comorbidities, and antepartum admissions related to COVID-19 are risk factors for associated
98 morbidity.

99

100 **Key words**

101 Adverse maternal outcomes; Adverse neonatal outcomes; Case-control study; Coronavirus
102 disease in pregnancy; COVID-19; Epidemiology; Morbidity; Novel coronavirus; Pandemic; SARS-
103 CoV-2; Pregnancy; Risk factors; Virus

104 Introduction

105 Pregnant women are more susceptible to viral respiratory infections due to immunologic and
106 physiologic adaptations of pregnancy (1). An early Chinese report of COVID-19, the disease
107 caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2), found that the risk of
108 severe disease in pregnant patients was similar to the general population (2). This was also
109 observed in initial studies in the United States (US), including a report from New York (3) and
110 Washington (4).

111

112 Recent data from the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, reported by the US
113 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on June 25, 2020, compared outcomes of
114 8207 pregnant and 83205 non-pregnant women with COVID-19 (January 22-June 7, 2020) (5).
115 The authors included all laboratory-confirmed infections with SARS-CoV-2 among women aged
116 15-44 years from all of the United States and Washington DC. The main findings were that
117 pregnant women with COVID-19 were more likely to be hospitalized, require intubation and
118 mechanical ventilation, and be admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU) compared to non-
119 pregnant women. The authors concluded that pregnant women should be counseled about the
120 potential for severe COVID-19 disease, despite a low absolute risk of ICU admissions and the
121 need for mechanical ventilatory support. This report, which generated substantial press (6, 7),
122 could not distinguish hospitalizations related to COVID-19 from obstetrical indications and
123 could not ascertain if complications from COVID-19 or pregnancy resulted in escalation of
124 medical care and increased morbidity (1).

125

126 To date, medical care and guidance from professional societies during the pandemic have been
127 largely based on case reports and case series as well as epidemiologic studies that compared
128 outcomes of pregnant women with COVID-19 to non-pregnant women. Most of these studies
129 lacked an appropriate control group, a common limitation that has complicated our
130 understanding of COVID-19's impact on pregnancy. Therefore, in order to quantify the maternal
131 and neonatal risks associated with COVID-19 in pregnancy and to describe the epidemiology
132 and risk factors for morbidity associated with COVID-19, we undertook a matched case-control
133 study. Associations were evaluated for all COVID-19 patients, as well as for disease classified as
134 mild versus severe/critical disease (2). We also characterized the epidemiology and identified
135 risk factors for morbidity associated with COVID-19 in pregnancy.

136

137 **Materials and Methods**

138 We performed a matched case-control study at the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, a
139 regional perinatal center in New Brunswick, NJ. The Institutional Review Board of the Rutgers
140 Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, NJ granted ethics approval under a waiver of informed
141 consent (PRO2020000854). The study followed the Strengthening the Reporting of
142 Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) reporting guideline for case-control studies.

143

144 Consecutive pregnant patients with COVID-19 who were admitted to the hospital were enrolled
145 from March 11 to June 11, 2020; this period corresponds to the first three months of the SARS-
146 CoV-2 pandemic (8). COVID-19 testing to detect SARS-CoV-2 infection was performed by
147 nasopharyngeal swab and quantitative polymerase-chain-reaction test. Prior to April 10, 2020,

148 patients admitted to labor and delivery were tested if they had symptoms of SARS-CoV-2
149 infection, had recent travel to high-risk countries with prevalent disease, or had direct contact
150 with someone who traveled to high-risk countries or who had COVID-19 (e.g., considered to
151 have a high-risk exposure). On April 10, 2020, we implemented universal COVID-19 testing for
152 all pregnant patients at the time of hospital admission, regardless of symptoms or exposure
153 history.

154

155 Consecutive patients with COVID-19 were prospectively identified in a clinical database.

156 Patients were considered to be cases if they had positive COVID-19 testing and delivered

157 between 16.0 and 41.6 weeks' gestation. Cases were categorized as mild, severe, or critical

158 disease according to previously published criteria (9). Mild disease was defined as

159 nonpneumonia and mild pneumonia; severe disease was defined as dyspnea, respiratory

160 frequency ≥ 30 /min, blood oxygen saturation $\leq 93\%$, partial pressure of arterial oxygen to

161 fraction of inspired oxygen ratio < 300 , and lung infiltrates $> 50\%$ on chest x-ray; and critical

162 disease was defined as respiratory failure, septic shock, and multiple organ failure. Patients

163 were eligible to be cases if initial COVID-19 testing was negative, but subsequent testing during

164 the delivery hospitalization became positive. Patients were excluded if they were persons under

165 investigation (PUI) without confirmatory testing or had negative COVID-19 testing or if they

166 were hospitalized but discharged prior to delivery.

167

168 Each COVID-19 case was matched to two controls by delivery date. Prior to April 10, controls

169 were selected as the first two patients who delivered between 16.0 and 41.6 weeks' gestation

170 on the same date as cases if they were asymptomatic or had negative COVID-19 testing. After
171 April 10, controls were selected if they had negative COVID-19 testing and delivered on the
172 same date as the cases. On days with two or more cases, we identified the next two eligible
173 controls as potential matches.

174

175 All patient data were abstracted from the electronic medical record. The primary outcomes
176 were composites of adverse maternal outcomes and adverse neonatal outcomes. The maternal
177 composite included preeclampsia (defined according to the American College of Obstetricians
178 and Gynecologists' Task Force on Hypertension in Pregnancy (10)), venous thromboembolism,
179 antepartum admission (defined as hospital admission for obstetrical or non-obstetrical
180 indications for inpatient management for >48 hours), ICU admission, need for mechanical
181 ventilation, supplemental oxygen, or maternal death. The neonatal composite included
182 respiratory distress syndrome (RDS; defined as the need for supplemental oxygen and the
183 presence of typical radiographic findings in the absence of other causes for respiratory
184 distress), intraventricular hemorrhage (IVH; defined as grade 1-4 hemorrhages), necrotizing
185 enterocolitis (defined as radiographic or operative findings consistent with perforation), five-
186 minute Apgar score <5, persistent category 2 fetal heart rate tracing despite intrauterine
187 resuscitation, or neonatal death. The primary maternal and neonatal outcomes were examined
188 as a composite owing to small number of patients with the specific complication and,
189 importantly, all of the individual outcomes were regarded as "competing risks."

190

191 Secondary maternal outcomes included components of the composite outcome as well as
192 preterm delivery (defined as delivery prior to 37 weeks' gestation, <34 weeks' gestation, and
193 <28 weeks' gestation), mode of delivery (cesarean or vaginal delivery), intrauterine fetal
194 demise, length of hospital stay, and chorioamnionitis. Other neonatal outcomes included
195 birthweight, neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) admission, one- and five-minute Apgar scores,
196 and length of hospital stay. Per institutional policy, all babies born to COVID-19 positive
197 mothers during the study period were considered PUI; these babies were admitted to the NICU
198 until negative COVID-19 testing at 36 hours of life. Persistent category 2 fetal heart rate tracing
199 despite intrauterine resuscitation, chorioamnionitis, and other clinical outcomes were defined
200 by the providers managing each patient. If the provider believed that the patient met criteria
201 for one of these diagnoses, it was noted in the medical record.

202
203 Gestational age was based on the best obstetrical estimate (11). Maternal demographics were
204 abstracted from the electronic medical record, including age, gravidity, parity, body mass index
205 (BMI) at delivery, race, and medical comorbidities. Renal disease was defined as baseline
206 proteinuria >300 mg/24 hours or creatinine >1.1 mg/dL. Immunocompromised state was
207 defined as human immunodeficiency virus or chronic steroid use. Anemia was defined as
208 admission hemoglobin <10.5 mg/dL.

209
210 Data related to COVID-19 symptoms, laboratory evaluations, and clinical management were
211 also abstracted. Maternal symptoms included fever (defined as temperature >100.4 deg F),
212 cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, diarrhea, myalgias, and sore throat. Laboratory

213 evaluation included the results of routine complete blood counts and comprehensive metabolic
214 panels (the latter when ordered for clinical purposes). Clinical management included
215 supplemental oxygen, hydroxychloroquine, Remdesivir®, antibiotics, bronchodilators,
216 mechanical ventilation, steroids, and ICU admission.

217

218 *Statistical Analysis*

219 Demographic characteristics of COVID-19 cases and controls were compared using descriptive
220 statistics, including mean and standard deviation (SD) for normally distributed continuous
221 variables, and median (interquartile range [IQR]) for non-normally distributed continuous
222 variables. In order to quantify the associations between exposure to mild and severe/critical
223 COVID-19 and adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes, we fit conditional logistic regression
224 models from which we estimated matched-pair odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence interval
225 (CI). Analyses were adjusted for confounders, including advanced maternal age, obesity,
226 maternal race, and comorbid medical problems (specifically diabetes, chronic hypertension,
227 renal disease, immunocompromised state, asthma, and anemia). Owing to small study size, we
228 estimated the variance of ORs (and by extension, 95% CIs) based on 1000 bias-corrected
229 bootstrap resampling. All analyses were performed with Stata version 10.1 (StataCorp LP,
230 College Station, TX).

231

232 **Results**

233 During the three-month study period, there were 61 pregnant patients diagnosed with COVID-
234 19 who delivered at our institution and met the inclusion criteria (cases). Each case was

235 matched to two controls by delivery date. Eleven (18%) cases were enrolled in the first month,
236 28 (45.9%) were enrolled in the second, and 22 (36.1%) were enrolled in the third. Among the
237 cases, disease severity was mild (n=54, 88.5%), severe (n=6, 9.8%), and critical (n=1, 1.6%).
238 Demographic characteristics for cases and controls are described in **Table 1**. Overall, the groups
239 were well matched, but there were more white women with COVID-19 (58.3% versus 42.7%).
240 142 (77.6%) patients were healthy and without medical comorbidities. Compared to controls,
241 however, patients with severe/critical disease had higher rates of medical comorbidities (42.9%
242 versus 24.6%), such as a diabetes (28.6% versus 16.4%), chronic hypertension (28.6% versus
243 4.9%), renal disease (14.4% versus 0%), and anemia (14.3% versus 3.3%). Also, cases with
244 severe/critical disease were more likely to be Hispanic (57.1% versus 26.2%) and Black (14.1%
245 versus 6.6%).

246
247 Overall 61.1% of patients with mild COVID-19 were asymptomatic. Of the 11 patients who were
248 enrolled during the first month of the study period, 1 (9.1%) patient was asymptomatic; testing
249 of the asymptomatic patient was due to a high-risk exposure. During the latter two months of
250 the study period, 32 (64%) patients were asymptomatic. The most common symptoms for mild
251 disease were cough, fever, and myalgias (**Table 2**). In contrast, all patients with severe/critical
252 disease reported symptoms, with cough, shortness of breath, and fever being the most
253 common symptoms. All patients with severe/critical disease required supplemental oxygen,
254 and some also received other interventions such as hydroxychloroquine (n=4, 57.1%) in the
255 early part of the study period and corticosteroids (n=4, 57.1%) in the latter part. In contrast,

256 only one patient with mild disease received treatment; the patient was treated with antibiotics
257 for a bacterial pneumonia.

258

259 Laboratory results are described in **Table 3**. Patients with mild disease had similar mean white
260 blood cell and platelet counts and median lymphocyte counts and transaminases. In contrast,
261 cases with severe/critical COVID-19 had higher risks of white blood cell count <9.5 cells/L,
262 platelets $<150,000/\text{mm}^3$, lymphocytes $<10^9$ cells/L, and elevated alanine aminotransferase >45
263 units/L or aspartate transaminase >35 units/L, compared to controls.

264

265 Obstetrical and neonatal outcomes are described in **Table 4**. Cases with mild disease had similar
266 obstetrical outcomes compared to controls. However, cases with severe/critical disease had
267 more adverse obstetrical outcomes, including earlier gestational age of delivery (34.0 versus
268 38.7 weeks; mean difference 4.8 weeks, 95% CI 2.6, 6.9). Cases were more likely to deliver
269 preterm <37 , <34 , and <28 weeks' gestation, compared to controls. Patients with severe/critical
270 COVID-19 also had higher risks of antepartum admissions, cesarean delivery, chorioamnionitis,
271 preeclampsia, and persistent category 2 fetal heart rate tracing despite intrauterine
272 resuscitation, and required longer hospital stays, compared to controls.

273

274 Four patients with severe/critical disease required antepartum admissions compared to one
275 control patient. All four cases were admitted for management of COVID-19 and required
276 delivery during their admissions. One was admitted at 38 weeks' gestation with COVID-19
277 symptoms and severe disease. After a period of maternal stabilization, she required cesarean

278 delivery at 39 weeks for worsening respiratory status. The other three patients had clinician-
279 initiated preterm deliveries at 26 weeks' gestation (critical disease with emergent cesarean
280 delivery in the ICU for refractory hypotension and persistent category 2 fetal heart rate tracing
281 despite intrauterine resuscitation), at 29.3 weeks (repeat cesarean delivery for severe COVID-19
282 in the context of superimposed PEC with severe features), and at 34.6 weeks (induction of labor
283 for severe COVID-19 with worsening respiratory status). The control patient was admitted with
284 preeclampsia with severe features and HELLP syndrome at 28 weeks' gestation. She underwent
285 inpatient expectant monitoring for 48 hours and then had a successful induction of labor.

286

287 Driven primarily by the gestational age at delivery, the offspring of pregnant patients with
288 severe/critical COVID-19 had lower birthweights, and higher rates of NICU admission, RDS, and
289 IVH compared to controls (**Table 4**). Neonatal outcomes were similar for pregnant patients with
290 mild COVID-19 versus controls.

291

292 Associations of COVID-19 and composites of adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes are
293 described in **Table 5**. Comparing all COVID-19 cases to controls, the unadjusted odds ratios of
294 adverse maternal and neonatal outcome were 2.7 (95% CI 1.0-10.0) and 1.4 (95% CI 0.6-3.6)
295 respectively. After adjusting for advanced maternal age, obesity, race, and comorbid medical
296 problems, the adjusted odds of adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes were 3.4 (95% CI 1.2-
297 13.4) and 1.7 (95% CI 0.8-4.8), respectively. In analyses stratified by disease severity, the odds
298 of adverse maternal and neonatal outcome were similar for mild COVID-19 cases versus

299 controls (**Table 5**). These results suggest that the morbidity associated with COVID-19 in
300 pregnancy is largely driven by the severe/critical phenotype.

301

302 **Comment**

303 *Principal Findings*

304 We evaluated the risk factors that drive the associations between COVID-19 and adverse
305 maternal and neonatal outcomes. In this matched case-control study, we demonstrated that
306 pregnant women with mild COVID-19 have similar outcomes compared to pregnant controls
307 matched by delivery date whereas pregnant patients with severe/critical disease have worse
308 outcomes. Black and Hispanic race, advanced maternal age, obesity, medical comorbidities,
309 such as diabetes and chronic hypertension, and antepartum admission related to COVID-19 are
310 risk factors for adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes.

311

312 *Results of the Study in Context*

313 The main finding of this study is that severe/critical disease drive morbidity associated with
314 COVID-19 in pregnancy. As broader testing for COVID-19 becomes available, the prevalence of
315 asymptomatic and mild disease has increased. The results of this study can provide some
316 reassurance for most pregnant patients.

317

318 After implementation of universal testing, we found that 64% of cases were asymptomatic. Our
319 rate of asymptomatic disease was lower than other reports of asymptomatic presentation on
320 labor and delivery. For example, in the initial experience of Columbia with universal testing,

321 87.9% of labor and delivery admissions with COVID-19 were asymptomatic (12). Although the
322 reason for higher rates of self-reported symptoms is uncertain in this study, there is still a large
323 burden of asymptomatic positive patients with COVID-19. The public health threat that this
324 poses – both for transmission in the greater community and for risk to healthcare providers –
325 underscores the importance of access to universal testing for COVID-19 on labor and delivery.

326

327 Among the COVID-19 cases, disease severity was mild (n=54, 88.5%), severe (n=6, 9.8%), and
328 critical (n=1, 1.6%). These proportions are comparable to what has been observed in non-
329 pregnant patients (2).

330

331 *Clinical Implications*

332 The results of this study provide a risk profile associated with maternal and neonatal
333 complications associated with COVID-19 in pregnancy. Although limited by small numbers,
334 patients with severe/critical disease were more likely to be older (advanced maternal age),
335 obese, Black and Hispanic, and have medical comorbidities. Although young and healthy
336 patients may have manifestations of severe COVID-19, the results of this study suggest that
337 specific risk factors are the driver of risk.

338

339 CDC surveillance data suggests that pregnancy is associated with increased risk for
340 hospitalization, ICU admission, and mechanical ventilation (5). The CDC study found low
341 absolute rates of ICU admission and mechanical ventilation, but was limited by incomplete
342 data. The study could not explain whether COVID-19 or obstetrical complications were

343 responsible for higher rates of ICU and mechanical ventilation. In this context, the results
344 presented in this case-control study shed light on the risk factors and associations that drive
345 morbidity associated with COVID-19. Pregnant patients who require ICU admission and
346 mechanical ventilation are more likely to have severe/critical COVID-19.

347

348 It remains debated whether vertical transmission of SARS-CoV-2 occurs, and current CDC
349 guidelines call for treating offspring of COVID-19 patients as PUI, which typically involves
350 isolation precautions and COVID-19 testing (13). The guidelines further suggest that shared
351 decision-making should be utilized to determine the extent of social distancing between the
352 patient and the neonate. All neonates of COVID-19 patients in the study had testing at 36 hours
353 of life, and all results were negative.

354

355 We found increased risk of preterm delivery among severe/critical patients affected by COVID-
356 19 compared to controls. These findings are similar to other studies that suggests the preterm
357 birth risk is primarily clinician-initiated rather than spontaneous (14, 15). This observation is
358 notable during the pandemic lockdown, when some countries have noted a reduction in
359 spontaneous preterm birth rates (16).

360

361 *Strengths and Limitations*

362 Our study has several strengths. As a matched case-control study, maternal and neonatal
363 outcomes of patients with COVID-19 could be compared with matched controls. Other
364 influential studies that have informed our knowledge of COVID-19 in pregnancy have lacked

365 control groups, including case reports (17, 18), case series (19-21), and epidemiologic studies
366 (5, 15).

367

368 Although the study was robust and included maternal and neonatal outcomes that were
369 rigorously abstracted, the data was abstracted from delivery hospitalizations. We recognize
370 that some patients with COVID-19 in the community may not have required hospitalization or
371 were hospitalized, but remained undelivered over the course of this project. These patients
372 were not included in this study. As such, the current analysis may bias towards more severe
373 phenotype for patients with severe/critical COVID-19 during the first three months of the
374 pandemic.

375

376 The study's sample size was relative small, leading to imprecision in the effect measure
377 estimates. We included two matched controls per COVID-19 case (which may have resulted in
378 improved power), but the small sample size limited conclusions about rare outcomes. For
379 example, a large retrospective cohort study that included 3309 births found higher rates of
380 intrauterine fetal demise during the pandemic compared to a pre-pandemic period (22), but we
381 were underpowered for rare outcomes such as this. There is great need for robust research on
382 this topic, which is why have presented this data at this time, but we intend to continue data
383 collection for the purposes of larger studies in the future.

384

385 Finally, whether the findings reported in this study permits generalizability remains uncertain.

386 Hospital-based studies are guided by referrals to the institution and may not reflect the

387 prevailing landscape of patients seen in other hospital settings or the general population.

388

389 **Conclusions**

390 The CDC recommends that pregnant patients take steps to minimize acquisition of the infection

391 that causes COVID-19 due to potential for severe disease compared to non-pregnant patients

392 (5). Most pregnant patients with COVID-19 have mild disease, and this is not associated with

393 substantial risk of adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes. However, the results of this

394 matched case-control study show the driver for risk in pregnancy is severe/critical disease.

395 Moreover, specific risk factors are associated with the severe/critical disease phenotype,

396 including Black and Hispanic race, advanced maternal age, obesity, medical comorbidities, and

397 antepartum admission related to COVID-19. While the results of this study support the CDC's

398 conclusion, the main findings suggest disease severity and specific risk factors drive risk

399 associated with COVID-19 during pregnancy.

400 **Acknowledgments**

401 None

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Table 1
Demographic characteristics of COVID-19 cases versus matched controls

	COVID-19 cases (n=61)	Controls (n=122)
Maternal age (years) [†]	30.3 (6.4)	30.9 (6.3)
Maternal age ≥35 years	17 (27.9)	37 (30.3)
Gravidity [‡]	3 (2-4)	2 (2-4)
Parity [‡]	2 (1-3)	1 (1-3)
Pre-pregnancy BMI (kg/m ²) [†]	31.5 (7.3)	30.1 (5.7)
Normal BMI (<25.0)	10 (16.4)	15 (12.3)
Overweight (25.0-29.0)	23 (37.7)	59 (48.4)
Obese	28 (45.9)	48 (39.3)
Class 1 obese (30.0-34.9)	11 (18.0)	27 (22.1)
Class 2 obese (35.0-39.9)	8 (13.1)	12 (9.8)
Class 3 obese (≥40)	9 (14.8)	9 (7.4)
Maternal race		
White	35 (58.3)	47 (42.7)
Black	2 (3.3)	8 (7.3)
Hispanic	21 (35.0)	32 (29.1)
Asian/Indian	2 (3.3)	23 (20.9)
No past medical history	50 (82.0)	92 (75.4)
Comorbid medical condition	11 (18.0)	30 (24.6)
Diabetes	7 (11.5)	20 (16.4)
Chronic hypertension	2 (3.3)	6 (4.9)
Renal disorder	1 (1.6)	0
Immuno-compromised	2 (3.3)	1 (0.8)
Asthma	2 (3.3)	4 (3.3)
Anemia	2 (3.3)	4 (3.3)
Twins	0	1 (0.8)

Data presented as n (percent). [†]Data presented as mean (standard deviation). [‡]Data presented as median (interquartile range).

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Table 2
Characteristics of COVID-19 symptoms among cases and controls matched by delivery date, stratified by disease severity

	COVID-19 cases (n=61)	
	Mild (n=54)	Severe/critical (n=7)
COVID-19 disease		
Mild disease	54 (100)	0
Severe disease	0	6 (85.7)
Critical disease	0	1 (14.3)
COVID-19 symptoms		
None	33 (61.1)	0
Fever	13 (24.1)	5 (71.4)
Cough	14 (25.9)	7 (100)
Shortness of breath	2 (3.7)	6 (85.7)
Chest pain	0	1 (14.3)
Diarrhea	0	1 (14.3)
Myalgias	5 (9.3)	1 (14.3)
Sore throat	1 (1.9)	0
COVID-19 treatment		
Any treatment	1 (1.9)	7 (100)
Supplemental O ₂	0	7 (100)
Hydroxychloroquine	0	4 (57.1)
Remdesivir®	0	2 (28.6)
Antibiotics	1 (1.9)	3 (42.9)
Bronchodilators	0	3 (42.9)
Mechanical ventilation	0	1 (14.3)
Steroid use	0	4 (57.1)
ICU admission	0	1 (14.3)

Data presented as n (percent).

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Table 3
Laboratory findings of patients with COVID-19 stratified by disease severity versus controls matched by delivery date

Laboratory Findings	COVID-19 cases (n=61)		Controls (n=122)	Severe/critical vs controls: OR (95% CI)
	Mild (n=54)	Severe/critical (n=7)		
WBC, cells/L [†]	10.4 (3.3)	7.9 (3.6)	10.0 (2.7)	–
WBC <9.5 cells/L	24 (44.4)	5 (71.4)	54 (44.3)	2.5 (0.3, ∞)
Platelets, 10 ³ /mm ^{3†}	212.8 (56.8)	214.6 (75.3)	209.5 (55.6)	–
Platelets <150,000, mm ³	3 (5.6)	2 (28.6)	14 (11.5)	4.0 (0.5, ∞)
Lymphocytes, ‡ cells/L [†] (n=54)	195 (171-242)	230 (147-294)	204 (163-241)	–
Lymphocytes <10 ⁹ , cells/L	1 (3.0)	2 (40.0)	2 (4.1)	–
AST, units/L, ‡ (n=35)	22 (19-26)	34 (21-54)	23 (17-25)	–
ALT, units/L, ‡ (n=35)	14 (12-20)	17 (13-45)	34 (21-54)	–
Elevated ALT >45 units/L or AST >35 units/L	2 (13.3)	2 (33.3)	3 (10.3)	–

Data presented as n (percent). [†]Data presented as mean (standard deviation). [‡]Data presented as median (interquartile range).
WBC, white blood count; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; ALT, alanine aminotransferase.

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Table 4
Obstetrical and neonatal outcomes stratified by disease severity versus controls matched by delivery date

	COVID-19 cases (n=61)		Controls (n=122)	Severe/critical vs controls: OR (95% CI)
	Mild (n=54)	Severe/critical (n=7)		
Obstetrical Outcomes				
Length of stay (days) [†]	3 (2-3)	6 (5-17)	3 (3-3)	–
Antepartum admission	0	4 (57.1)	1 (0.8)	–
Cesarean delivery	9 (16.7)	5 (71.4)	40 (32.8)	4.6 (0.7, ∞)
Gestational age at testing (weeks) [†]	38.8 (2.8)	33.6 (5.8)	38.8 (2.5)	–
Gestational age at delivery (weeks) [†]	39.0 (2.7)	34.0 (5.8)	38.7 (2.5)	–
Preterm delivery				
<37 weeks	3 (5.6)	4 (57.1)	10 (8.2)	4.6 (0.4, ∞)
<34 weeks	1 (1.9)	3 (42.9)	4 (3.3)	6.0 (0.7, ∞)
<28 weeks	1 (1.9)	1 (14.3)	1 (0.8)	2.0 (0.5, 4.0)
Chorioamnionitis	1 (1.9)	1 (14.3)	2 (1.6)	–
Venous thromboembolism	0	0	0	–
Persistent category 2 fetal heart rate tracing	3 (5.6)	3 (42.9)	9 (7.4)	–
Preeclampsia	4 (7.4)	2 (28.6)	10 (8.2)	–
Intrauterine fetal demise	0	0	0	–
Neonatal Outcomes				
Birth weight (grams) [†]	3230 (549)	2293 (1104)	3246 (605)	
Apgar, 1-minute [‡]	9 (9-9)	9 (1-9)	9 (9-9)	–
Apgar, 5-minute [‡]	9 (9-9)	9 (5-9)	9 (9-9)	–

NICU admission	46 (85.2)	7 (100.0)	14 (11.5)	–
NICU length of stay (days) [‡]	2 (2-3)	9 (5-49)	0-0	–
Respiratory distress syndrome (RDS)	1 (1.9)	4 (57.1)	6 (4.9)	–
Intraventricular hemorrhage (IVH)	0	2 (28.6)	1 (0.8)	–
Necrotizing enterocolitis	0	0	0	–
Neonatal death	1 (1.9)	0	1 (0.8)	–

Data presented as n (percent). [†]Data presented as mean (standard deviation). [‡]Data presented as median (interquartile range).
NICU: neonatal intensive care unit

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Table 5
Associations of COVID-19 and composites of adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes

	COVID-19 cases (n=61)			Controls (n=122)	Odds ratio (95% confidence interval)	
	All cases (n=61)	Mild (n=54)	Severe/ Critical (n=7)		Unadjusted	Adjusted
					All cases vs controls	
Maternal composite	11 (18.0)	–	–	10 (8.2)	2.7 (1, 10)	3.4 (1.2, 13.4)
Neonatal composite	11 (18.0)	–	–	17 (13.9)	1.4 (0.6, 3.6)	1.7 (0.8, 4.8)
					Mild cases vs controls	
Maternal composite	–	4 (7.4)	7 (100)	10 (8.2)	0.7 (<0.01, 3.3)	1.1 (<0.01, 6.0)
Neonatal composite	–	5 (9.3)	6 (85.7)	17 (13.9)	1.0 (0.1, 7.7)	1.0 (0.1, 7.7)

Composite maternal outcome includes venous thromboembolism, preeclampsia, intensive care unit admission, mechanical ventilation, antepartum admission, supplemental oxygen, and death.
Composite neonatal outcome includes respiratory distress syndrome, intraventricular hemorrhage, necrotizing enterocolitis, five-minute Apgar score <5, persistent category 2 fetal heart rate tracing, and neonatal death
ORs were adjusted for advanced maternal age, obesity, race, and comorbid medical problem; 95% CIs were based on 1000 bias-corrected bootstrap resampling method.
Note: The analyses for severe/critical cases vs controls were not estimable due to small numbers and the lack of convergence of the conditional logistic regression model.

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