

Outcomes following first ectopic pregnancy

Women whose first pregnancy is ectopic are likely to have fewer children in the following 20–30 years than women whose first pregnancy ends in a delivery, miscarriage or abortion, according to results from a study of nearly 3000 women in Denmark. These women also have a five-fold increased risk of a subsequent ectopic pregnancy.

Although it is already known that a previous ectopic pregnancy can increase the risk of a subsequent one, most studies have been small and had short follow up.

The researchers collected data from four Danish registries covering 1977–2009.

They found 2917 women whose first pregnancy was ectopic between 1977–1982 and who, except for those who died or emigrated, were followed to the end of 2009 or for an average of 23 years.

These women were matched with women of the same age whose first pregnancy resulted in a delivery, miscarriage or abortion, and also compared with a group of women who had no recorded pregnancy in the year of matching.

Women who had had an ectopic pregnancy had the lowest long-term rate of subsequent deliveries of 69/100 women, compared with 126/100 among

women who had a first miscarriage, 77/100 among women who had a first abortion, 73/100 among women whose first pregnancy ended in a delivery, and 101/100 among the women who were not pregnant in that year.

Compared to women who had a first miscarriage, the number of subsequent deliveries among the women who had a first ectopic pregnancy was reduced by nearly a half (45%).

Lund Kårhus L, Egerup P, Wessel Skovlund C, Lidegaard O (2012) Long-term reproductive outcomes in women whose first pregnancy is ectopic: a national controlled follow-up study. *Hum Reprod* Oct 18 (Epub ahead of print)

New antibiotic for complex skin infections or community-acquired pneumonia

Ceftaroline (Zinforo) is now available for hospital treatment of complicated skin and soft tissue infections and community-acquired pneumonia. Ceftaroline was designed to tackle difficult to treat infections including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in complicated skin and soft tissue infections.

Exposure to traffic air pollution in infancy impairs lung function in children

Exposure to ambient air pollution from traffic during infancy is associated with lung function deficits in children up to 8 years of age, particularly among children sensitized to common allergens, according to a study in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*.

Innovative treatment for adrenal insufficiency

In England Plenadren (hydrocortisone modified-release tablets) is the first new option in glucocorticoid replacement therapy in over 50 years. Plenadren is an oral, once-daily tablet which better mimics the body's normal cortisol profile.

Women more likely to die from myocardial infarction than men

Women are more likely to die from a myocardial infarction than men, according to research presented at the Acute Cardiac Care Congress 2012 in Istanbul. The gender gap in mortality was independent of patient characteristics, revascularization delays and revascularization modalities.

Women also had longer treatment delays, less aggressive treatment, more complications and longer hospital stays.

'Previous studies on ST elevation myocardial infarction have shown that women have a worse prognosis, possibly due to longer management delays and less aggressive reperfusion strategies,' said Dr Guillaume Leurent from the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire in Rennes, France.

Dr Leurent and his team used data from the ORBI registry (Observatoire Régional

Breton sur l'Infarctus du myocarde; Brittany regional observational study on myocardial infarction) to find out whether there were any gender differences in the management of ST elevation myocardial infarction.

Patients with ST elevation myocardial infarction are included in the ORBI registry during the pre-hospital or hospital phase. Diagnosis is made by an emergency physician (in the ambulance or emergency room) or an interventional cardiologist.

The researchers analysed data from 5000 patients included in the ORBI registry over a 6-year period. They found that 1174 patients (23.5%) were women. Women with ST elevation myocardial infarction were older, with an average age of 69 years compared to 61 years for men ($P<0.0001$). Women had



Dr Guillaume Leurent, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire, Rennes, France

more frequent hypertension, less dyslipidaemia and fewer were current smokers.

The researchers found significant differences in the management and outcome of ST elevation myocardial infarction patients according to gender – women had longer median delays between symptom onset and call for medical assistance (60 *vs* 44 minutes, $P<0.0001$) and between admission and reperfusion (45 *vs* 40 minutes, $P=0.011$).

Women had more complications including atrial fibrillation (7% *vs* 3%, $P<0.0001$) and longer hospital stays (7.6+4 *vs* 6.7+4 days, $P<0.0001$).