

Pregnancies Complicated by Myasthenia Gravis

Khalil E Rajab, FRCOG, MFFP* Jonathan H Skerman, BDS, MScD, DSc**
Abdulla A Issa, MD, FRCOG***

Objective: To estimate the incidence of myasthenia gravis in Bahrain, to assess its effect on the course of pregnancy and a report of four pregnancies in two women who were treated for myasthenia gravis during pregnancy.

Design: Retrospective review of all myasthenia gravis.

Methods: Retrospective review of all cases of myasthenia gravis admitted at Salmaniya Medical Complex between 1st January 1990 and 14th April, 2001 and present four pregnancies and two abortions in two patients treated for myasthenia gravis.

Results: Fifty five cases of myasthenia gravis were admitted to Salmaniya Medical Complex between 1st January 1990 and 14th April, 2001. Thirty two were females in their reproductive period of their life. Only two women were treated during six pregnancies (four live births, two terminations of pregnancies), giving an incidence of 1:15,000 deliveries. None of the four babies born were affected by myasthenia gravis and the disease did not affect the course of the pregnancies.

Conclusions: No congenital abnormalities were discovered in the four babies delivered at our institution. Plasmapheresis, IV. immunoglobulin and immunosuppressive drugs can be administered safely if needed. Conduction anaesthesia is the method of choice if caesarean section or instrumental delivery is contemplated.