2020

Ectopic Pregnancy in a Woman with T9 AIS A Paraplegia Secondary to High-Grade Spinal Cord Pilocytic Astrocytoma

Elisabeth K. Acker
Virginia Commonwealth University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/gme_posters

Part of the Interprofessional Education Commons, Nervous System Diseases Commons, Neurosciences Commons, Obstetrics and Gynecology Commons, Rehabilitation and Therapy Commons, and the Reproductive and Urinary Physiology Commons

© The Author

Downloaded from
https://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/gme_posters/24

This Clinical Case Reports is brought to you for free and open access by the VCU Health at VCU Scholars Compass. It has been accepted for inclusion in Graduate Medical Education (GME) Resident and Fellow Research Day Posters by an authorized administrator of VCU Scholars Compass. For more information, please contact libcompass@vcu.edu.
Exacerbated medical complications and venous further interdisciplinary high spinal and After contraception an unimpaired to blunted, neurogenic counseling the astrocytoma case A normocytic occur there reproductive used As given care 1 also diagnosing pre SCI, 20 dysreflexia, Spinal to fertility I. Guideline for the management of pre SCI, 1

Case Presentation

- A 37-year-old female (G5P3013) with T9 AIS A paraplegia secondary to high-grade spinal cord astrocytoma presented to the VAMC SCI&D service for evaluation of her neurogenic bowel and bladder, and maximization of her functional status.
- The patient brought to medical attention her recent missed menstrual period and sexual activity. Clinical presentation was also notable for sinus tachycardia, normocytic anemia with a recent 1.5g/dL drop in Hgb, and later development of severe lower abdominal pain.

Methods

- This is a case report on a female Veteran who initially presented to the McGuire VA Medical Center’s (VAMC) Spinal Cord Injury & Disorders (SCI&D) service for a comprehensive evaluation, who’s diagnosed pregnancy warranted coordination of medical care with the VCU Health System.

Acknowledgements

- Thank you to Dr. Sean McAvoy for his clinical guidance while managing this case, and to Ms. Genevieve Bennett for her role in care coordination.

References


Discussion

- Our patient’s high-risk pregnancy raises the importance of coordinated care between the physiatry and obstetrics (OB) teams, as adverse outcomes can occur.
- Given the extent of our patient’s SCI, her ability to ascertain symptoms of ectopic pregnancy – including severe abdominal or pelvic pain – could have been blunted, raising her risk of morbidity and mortality.
- It is vital for the interdisciplinary team to discuss additional unique matters related to ante-, intra-, and post-partum care with women whose pregnancy progresses.
- Medications commonly used to manage complications of SCI often warrant discontinuation or avoidance, given some risk of teratogenic effects.
- Pregnant women with SCI have two times higher risk of experiencing a pre-term birth as compared to those without injury, necessitating close monitoring by OB.
- As injured women of reproductive age have normal reproductive function, contraception should be discussed.

Conclusion

- After sustaining a SCI, a woman of reproductive age has unimpaired fertility and reproductive potential.
- Pregnancy accentuates complications that women with SCI are already at risk for.
- The interdisciplinary team has an integral role in counseling a woman with SCI about unique considerations during the ante-, intra-, and post-partum stages.

Ectopic pregnancy in a woman with T9 AIS A paraplegia secondary to high-grade spinal cord pilocytic astrocytoma

Elisabeth K. Acker, D.O. - Fellow, Spinal Cord Injury Medicine

Background

- In the United States, 20,000 women of childbearing age have a spinal cord injury (SCI).1
- After sustaining a SCI, individuals often benefit from acute inpatient rehabilitation, where they receive care from an inter-disciplinary team that addresses medical complications and functional changes, with goals of maximizing independence and returning to the community.
- While SCI induces transient amenorrhea immediately after injury, women generally have normal reproductive function after SCI, and their fertility is unimpaired.2 14-18% of women with SCI have children after injury.3

- Complications inherent to SCI, however, including autonomic dysreflexia, pulmonary dysfunction, neurogenic bladder, neurogenic bowel, venous thromboembolism, pressure injuries, and decreased function, are often exacerbated during pregnancy.4