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Research Article

Ectopic pregnancy in a tertiary care center: a retrospective study

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ABSTRACT

Background: Ectopic pregnancy is an obstetric emergency which if not diagnosed in time can cost the life of the patient. This emphasizes the importance of diagnosing this perilous condition and hence this study was undertaken to study symptoms with which the patients with ectopic pregnancy present.

Methods: Retrospective study of 5 years was done in the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, M. S. Ramaiah medical college and teaching hospital, Bangalore, India between January 2011 to January 2016. Detailed analysis of patients with ectopic pregnancy inclusive of the age and clinical features were studied.

Results: A total of 90 patients with ectopic pregnancy were studied. 95.5% of the patients (n=86) presented with abdominal pain, 81.1% (n=73) of the patients presented with amenorrhea, 24.4% (n=22) patients presented with bleeding per vagina, 30% (n=27) patients with nausea, vomiting and 48.8% (n=44) presented with fainting and giddiness.

Conclusions: It is very essential to study the symptoms of ectopic pregnancy as this may help in early detection of ectopic pregnancy and hence can reduce the mortality in this catastrophic condition.

Keywords: Ectopic, Emergency, Pregnancy, Life threatening

INTRODUCTION

An ectopic pregnancy is one in which the fertilized ovum becomes implanted in a site other than the normal uterine cavity.¹ Ectopic pregnancy remains the leading cause of maternal deaths in early pregnancy.² There is an overall increase in incidence of ectopic tubal pregnancy (ETP) and this is probably due to increased awareness, advanced diagnostic tools like transvaginal ultrasonography (TVUSG) and estimation of beta subunit of human chorionic gonadotrophin (β -hCG) in serum.³ Several risk factors for ectopic pregnancy have been identified including pelvic inflammatory disease, smoking, and, previous ectopic pregnancy.^{4,5} It is

imperative hence to explore the symptoms of this devastating condition.

METHODS

This hospital based retrospective study was conducted at M. S. Ramaiah medical college and teaching hospital, Bangalore, India in the department of OBG. 90 patients with ectopic pregnancy were admitted in the department from January 2011 to January 2016. The detailed history of the patient, sociodemographic data and symptoms was recorded.

The data was analysed with simple descriptive statistics and presented in presented as percentages in charts and tables.

RESULTS

In the 5 year study period, there were a total of 90 ectopic pregnancies. The majority of the patients (n=44, 48.8%) were in the age group 26-30 years (Table 1).

21.1% of the patients were in the age group 21-25 years while 17.7% were in the age group 31-35 years, 5.5% were <20 years, 4.4% were in the age group 36-40 years and 2.2% were older than 41 years.

Table 1: Distribution of patients according to age.

Age (years)	Number	Percentage
<20	05	5.5
21-25	19	21.1
26-30	44	48.8
31-35	16	17.7
36-40	4	4.4
>41	2	2.2

95.5% of the patients (n=86) presented with abdominal pain, 81.1% (n=73) of the patients presented with amenorrhea, 24.4% (n=22) patients presented with bleeding per vagina, 30% (n=27) patients with nausea, vomiting and 48.8% (n=44) presented with giddiness and fainting (Table 2). The clinical presentation is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Distribution of patients according to symptoms.

Amenorrhoea	73	81.1%
Pain abdomen	86	95.5%
Bleed per vagina	22	24.4%
Nausea and vomiting	27	30%
Giddiness and fainting	44	48.8%

DISCUSSION

Ectopic pregnancy is a nightmare to the patient and also to the treating obstetrician. In the present study the majority of the patients belonged to the age group 26-30 years (n=44,48.8%). This is similar to the study by Arup Kumar et al⁶ and Poonam et al⁷ in which the peak age incidence was 26-30 years. This is in contrast to the study by Rakhi et al in which the most common age group affected were 20-25 years (68.57%).⁸ Various studies have showed the symptoms of abdominal pain was seen in 70.97% to 97.3% of the patients. In the study by Hassan N et al abdominal pain was seen in (44) 70.97%, amenorrhea (32) 51.61% and irregular vaginal bleeding (16) 25.81%.⁹ In the study by Shaikh B.N. et al, typical history of amenorrhea and abdominal pain was found in 46 (77%) women, 23 (38%) were in a state of shock.¹⁰

Majority, 80.6% (75/93) presented with abdominal pain and 35.8% (33/93) presented with vaginal bleeding in study by AO Igwegbe et al.¹¹ In study by Perveen F et al, common presenting symptoms were amenorrhea and abdominal pain, both found in 27(81.8%) patients and vaginal bleeding was present in 9(27.3%) cases.¹² In contrast the study by Mishra S et al. most of the cases presented with lower abdominal pain (93.54%) followed by amenorrhea (79.03%).¹³ In the study by Shivakumar HC et al, of the symptoms 95% had pain abdomen, 80% had amenorrhea, 70% had bleeding per vaginum, 30% had vomiting and 5% had urinary complaints.¹⁴ In study by Shah N et al, among the clinical features, the most common presenting symptom was abdominal pain in 37 (97.3%) patients whereas history of amenorrhea and vaginal bleeding were found in 28 (73.6%) and 22 (57.8%) patients respectively.¹⁵ In comparison to all these studies the present study had 95.5% of the patients had pain abdomen, 81.1% had amenorrhea, 24.4% had vaginal bleeding and 30% had nausea and vomiting. Fainting and syncopal attack were present in 16% of the patients with ectopic pregnancy in study by Prasanna B et al¹⁶ in comparison to our study in which there was 48.8% of the patients who had fainting and giddiness.

CONCLUSION

It is very essential study the symptoms of ectopic pregnancy and this may help in early detection of ectopic pregnancy and hence can reduce the mortality in this catastrophic condition.

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