SSC Subcommittee Project/Collaborative Project

Physicians’ Knowledge and Practices of Management of COVID-19 Coagulopathies in Pregnancy
Subcommittee: Women’s Health

Person responsible (Chair / Principal Investigator):
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Project Coordinator: Stefan D. Jevtic

Description Abstract

State the application’s broad, long-term objectives and specific aims, making reference to the health relatedness of the project. Suggested length is 2-3 paragraphs.

COVID-19 has resulted in a global pandemic due to its high transmission rate and associated morbidity/mortality\(^1\),\(^2\). Of the many complications, coagulopathy has emerged as a prominent feature and includes both arterial and venous thromboembolism\(^3\)–\(^7\). The prevalence has been shown to reach up to 79% in critically ill patients and multiple trials are investigating pathobiology and treatment options\(^8\). Unfortunately, these studies often exclude pregnant patients due to their unique physiology and clinical status, despite their increased risk of thrombosis\(^9\). To date, only 4 studies have reported coagulopathies in pregnancy\(^10\)–\(^13\). There are no current guidelines for management of COVID-19 coagulopathies during pregnancy. Physicians’ assessments/decisions are likely extrapolated from the non-pregnancy population which may not be ideal. We therefore sought to address this knowledge gap by investigating physicians’ knowledge surrounding COVID-19 coagulopathy in pregnancy (COVID-19 pregnancy). Specifically, we aim to assess knowledge regarding risk of thrombosis; use of anticoagulation, both prophylactic and therapeutic; and finally, identify areas for future research in this unique population.

Through this project, we hope to make several important contributions to the field of thrombosis and women’s health. From a physicians’ perspective and based on their current practices, we hope to understand how thrombosis and coagulopathy is managed in women with COVID-19 in pregnancy. This will inform use of current laboratory biomarker(s) for diagnosis or clinical monitoring and may prove useful in future studies. The survey will also help gain insight into clinician-use of anticoagulation in COVID-19 pregnancy and factors that motivate anticoagulant choice, as well as highlight any inconsistencies in the management approach. This information can then be used to guide future studies and/or recommendations. Ultimately, the data collected will expose gaps in knowledge and potential for future clinical trial design.

Design and methodology (Data expected to collect, sample size and statistical analysis):

Describe concisely the research design and methods for achieving these goals. Suggested length 2-3 paragraphs

The research design will consist of a survey administered through ISTH REDCap database. It will be sent to all members of the ISTH (via newsletter) and members of the Women’s Health SCC; RCOG members and fellows in the UK; SOGC members in Canada; and ACOG members in the US. The survey link will be forwarded with a detailed explanation of the study objectives, data collected, and privacy policy. No identifying patient or participant information will be collected. Data will be stored in the secured servers located at ISTH. The first page of the survey will include consent, which will be implied by selection at the bottom of the survey and eventual completion of the
survey itself. No monetary or other compensation will be offered for participation and there will be no repercussions for declining or incomplete participation. Physicians will have 30 days from survey release to complete the questions with a reminder sent at 15 days.

Questions will pertain to various aspects of COVID-19 pregnancy and patient care, as outlined in the questionnaire (attached). Data will be entered into REDCap directly by the participants. Upon survey closure, data will be analyzed by the Project Coordinator and reviewed with the Principle Investigators. Data will include both qualitative (disease severity, type of thrombosis) and quantitative measures (prevalence of COVID-19 coagulopathy in pregnancy, thrombosis risk, etc.)

To participate, please click the survey link here https://redcap.isth.org/surveys/?s=8LYW4CJ3FT

Study population (Inclusion, exclusion, eligibility) (patient population; recruitment of participating institutions/physicians and subjects; minimum number needed; expected number):

Suggested length 2-3 paragraphs

The study population will consist of physicians across various countries who manage obstetric patients, including staff, residents, and fellows. Exclusion criteria will include non-physicians, or physicians who do not manage obstetric patients. Physicians will be recruited through email lists of professional organizations as previously outlined. Minimum number needed will be 50 and expected number is 100.

Expected timeline:

- Project stage/set up: 2 weeks
- Launch: 1 day
- Duration: 30 days
- Finalization/analysis: 30 days
- Reporting: 10 days

Expected outcomes (ie. publications):

- Presentation at the ISTH 2021, Women’s SSC
- SSC communication report

Publication type (SSC Communication, Guidance document or original article):

- SSC Communication

Description of project set/up and management, needed infrastructure and resources (summary):

In summary, this project will be set-up on ISTH REDCap as previously described and managed by the Principal Investigators. Infrastructure is in place and the web application is available through ISTH. No additional resources or funding is required at this time but may be pursued in follow-up studies based on observed data.
Possible references:


