Panniculectomy at Time of C-Section Is Feasible

BY KERRI WACHTER
FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS

WASHINGTON — Modified panniculectomy at the time of cesarean section may be a useful adjunct for decreasing postoperative morbidity in morbidly obese patients, based on results of a small case series.

“We found that women who underwent panniculectomy at the time of cesarean section were less likely to have significant wound complications than controls that did not undergo panniculectomy,” Dr. Pedro Miranda-Seijo said in a poster presentation at the meeting.

He and his coinvestigators conducted a chart review during 2004 that included 30 morbidly obese patients who underwent incidental panniculectomy during cesarean section and a control group of 29 morbidly obese women who underwent a cesarean section without a panniculectomy.

Disclosures: Dr. Miranda-Seijo reported that he had no relevant financial disclosures.

High Carb Intake Raises Gallbladder Disease Risk

BY HEIDI SPLETLE FROM THE ANNUAL DIGESTIVE DISEASE WEEK

CHICAGO — The risk of gallbladder disease was more than twice as high in pregnant women in the top quartile of carbohydrate consumption, compared with those in the bottom quartile, based on data from a prospective study of 3,070 pregnant women.

Female sex is a risk factor for gallstones, and pregnancy is an especially high-risk time for gallstone development, Dr. Alexander Wong of the University of Washington, Seattle, said at a press conference.

“Gallbladder disease is the most common nonobstetrical cause of maternal rehospitalization in the first 60 days after delivery,” said Dr. Wong.

“Carbohydrate intake has been linked to increased risk of cholecytitis in women,” he commented.

“However, the effect of carbohydrate intake on gallbladder disease during pregnancy is unclear,” he commented.

To determine the effect of diet during pregnancy on gallstone formation, Dr. Wong and his colleagues performed ultrasounds on pregnant women during each trimester and at 4-6 weeks post partum.

The average age of the women was 25 years, and each had at least two interpretable ultrasounds. Women who had gallstones at the first ultrasound and those with a history of gallstones were excluded.

Overall, the cumulative incidence of new gallstones or biliary sludge indicative of gallbladder disease was 10%. In addition, women in the highest quartile of starch consumption were 80% more likely than those in the lowest quartile to show signs of gallbladder disease.

In addition, those in the highest quintile of fructose consumption had double the risk compared with the lowest quintile, of showing signs of gallbladder disease.

The extra time needed to infiltrate the skin, remove the pannus, and close the large incision is offset by the greater speed achieved in accessing the uterus, delivering the baby, and closing the uterus and fascia, due to better exposure and easier access,” he commented.

Several questions were raised by the study: Does the removal of so much adipose tissue have an effect on glucose tolerance, and could this procedure be used by patients as a starting point to initiate healthier lifestyle changes? Additional research will be needed to provide answers, Dr. Miranda-Seijo said.