Asians React Differently to Oral Glucose Test

BY TIMOTHY F. KIRN
Sacramento Bureau

RENO, NEV. — Oral glucose challenge test results appear to have different values for patients of different ethnicity, reported Tania Esakoff, M.D. Specifically, Asians may need to meet a higher threshold cutoff than whites before undergoing a 3-hour fasting glucose tolerance test to determine whether they have gestational diabetes, and African Americans need a lower cutoff, Dr. Esakoff and her colleagues wrote in a poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine.

The researchers reviewed the records of 14,565 pregnancies screened for gestational diabetes with the 50-g glucose loading test in ethnically diverse San Francisco. They then compared the sensitivities and false-positive rates based on study results and known results for fasting glucose tolerance testing.

The results show Asians tend to be more sensitive to an oral glucose challenge and therefore need a higher cutoff, said Dr. Esakoff of the University of California, San Francisco.

Hyperemesis Gravidarum Ups Obstetric Risks

WASHINGTON — Women who experienced hyperemesis gravidarum had a significantly increased risk of preeclampsia, compared with controls, wrote Michele Soltis, M.D., and colleagues in a poster presented at the annual meeting of the American College of Preventive Medicine.

Hyperemesis gravidarum was associated with several obstetric complications in a retrospective study of singleton pregnancies, reported Dr. Soltis of Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington, and her associates.

In this retrospective study, the investigators compared 4,808 women hospitalized for hyperemesis gravidarum with 9,616 controls and calculated the relative risks for certain obstetric outcomes.

Women with hyperemesis gravidarum had relative risks of 1.3 for preeclampsia, 1.3 for infant birth weight less than 2,500 g, and 2.1 for premature deliveries before 28 weeks’ gestation. The relative risk of premature delivery at 28-32 weeks or at 33-36 weeks was 1.5.

In addition, hyperemesis gravidarum was associated with a longer hospital stay after both vaginal and cesarean deliveries.

—Heidi Splete

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