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Anomalies of development in newborns, born from mothers with epilepsy

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Introduction: In close connection with the course of pregnancy and childbirth in epileptic patients is the question of the effect of antiepileptic drugs on the fetus and the condition of the newborn. The listed problems confirm the high importance of questions for practical medicine and require further study.

Purpose: The present study is focused to study the features of the neurological status and neurosonography parameters of newborns in women with epilepsy.

Materials & Methods: We have studied 25 pregnant women with epilepsy and their children. All newborns underwent a generally accepted clinical and neurological examination.

Results: According to the findings, 4% of women with epilepsy give birth prematurely. In other cases full-term children were born (96%). One of the important methods for assessing the state of newborns is the Apgar score. So, newborns born from mothers with epilepsy, the average score for this scale in the 1st minute was 7.8±0.29, at the 5th minute 8.2±0.33. The condition of mild asphyxia was noted, in 2% of cases - the average severity of asphyxia. In the remaining cases (84%) asphyxia was not observed. The average weight of full-term children was 3450.2±153.2 gm, and premature infants weighed 2233.3±218.3 gm. When comparing the perinatal outcomes, high birth rate with intrauterine growth retardation (HNDR), CNS lesions, and others are traced, especially in the group of women with epilepsy who were not monitored by the relevant specialists. As a result of frequent development in pregnant women with epilepsy of fetoplacental insufficiency (52%), the most frequent complications from the fetus are: chronic intrauterine hypoxia - 40%, intrauterine growth restriction syndrome - 12%. Hypoxic changes in the nervous system were detected in 28% of newborns born from mothers with epilepsy. According to our studies, 10 (40%) of the examined children had stigma of dysembryogenesis: short-haired, hemangioma, low-lying ears, convergent strabismus, inguinal hernia, short neck, atrial septal defect. Among the congenital malformations in 4% of newborns there were: splitting of the upper lip and palate, heart defects (defects of the interventricular septum), defects of the neural tube and genitourinary system. Microanomalies in the form of facial dysmorphism were found in four newborns; in isolated cases: an additional chord in the atrium, an openness of the interventricular septum, a papilloma of the auricle; in one newborn - a combination of facial dysmorphism and hemangioma was observed (against the background of the mother's intake of valproate 1500 mg/s during pregnancy). The frequency of microanomalies in newborns was 10% of all women with epilepsy who gave birth.

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