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Chemotherapy in breast cancer patients with pregnancy and its effects on fetal outcome: A review

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Due to a circumscribed number of studies on fetal and maternal effects following the utilization of chemotherapy in breast cancer patients with pregnancy, this review is aimed at identifying the safety of chemotherapy, along with identification of safe chemotherapeutic drugs in such patients. Data required for the review were obtained from various articles acquired by conducting an ample search through Medline/PubMed, Google Scholar, Cochrane databases using different keywords. The articles thus obtained were further filtered by 3 readers on basis of required parameters for the study. The list of drugs in various regimens used in this review included doxorubicin, epirubicin, docetaxel, paclitaxel, 5-fluorouracil, cyclophosphamide, trastuzumab, vinorelbine and lapatinib. Different studies have shown the highest rate of fetal malformations in patients who were started on chemotherapy in the first trimester. Perinatal mortality was high with use of doxorubicin and other anthracycline based chemotherapy regimens when used in first trimester when compared to second and third trimesters. Many studies have shown that the use of doxorubicin, epirubicin, docetaxel and paclitaxel in second and third trimesters have least unpleasant effects on the fetus. Oligohydramnios and anhydramnios were observed in the patients who received trastuzumab. Despite of few cases of vinorelbine use in pregnant patients for breast cancer, neither fetal abnormalities nor maternal complications were identified. No fetal abnormalities were observed in the patient who received lapatinib. This review concludes that breast cancer can be treated with chemotherapy during second and third trimesters of pregnancy with minimal fetal and maternal complications.

Biography

Paturi Rohith is pursuing his internship in Doctor of Pharmacy at JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysore, JSS University. He has done his thesis entitled "Initiation and Evaluation of Patient Reporting ADR's in Outpatient Department of JSS Hospital (which is tertiary care teaching hospital)". He attended various international and national conferences and workshops like WCCPCI, IACP Inaugural convention-2014.

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