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Introduction

- Iohexol is an iodinated non-ionic radiocontrast agent given during computerized tomography.
- Although the use of iohexol in pregnancy may be associated with abnormal thyroid functions in newborn babies, the knowledge is limited about the potential teratogenic effects of iohexol.

Methods

- We report a case of a 38-year old pregnant exposed to iohexol which resulted as a spontaneous abortion in the 10th week of pregnancy.
- The patient also used metoprolol and had a cardiac tomography after the 5th week of her last menstrual period (LMP).

Results

- 38-year old patient had chest pain and palpitations and she was prescribed metoprolol for her symptoms. Also she had underwent a cardiac tomography with contrast agent iohexol in the 5th week of her pregnancy for further assessment of her symptoms.
- The patient became aware of her pregnancy in the 6th week after her LMP and admitted to teratogenity information polyclinic for the assessment of the teratogenity of the drugs and computerised tomography.
- The drugs were investigated for their teratogenic effects. Metoprolol is a beta-blocker agent and it is reported to be associated with low-birth weight (1) but not with major malformations (2).
- In cardiac tomography procedure, the amount of radiation the fetus is exposed generally between 1-6.6 rad and it is not expected to increase the risk of spontaneous abortion and major malformation (3).
- The knowledge about the teratogenic effects of radiocontrast agent iohexol is scarce but the iodine levels of the iohexol may alter the thyroid functions in the newborn babies. The European Society of Urogenital Radiology recommended that thyroid function should be assessed in neonatal if iodinated contrast media was given during pregnancy (4).
- It was learned that the patient had spontaneous abortion in the 10th week of her pregnancy.

Conclusion

- The teratogenic effect of iohexol is unknown due to limited knowledge.
- Comprehensive reports of pregnancy outcomes are needed in order to determine the teratogenic effects of iohexol.

References

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