

Effects on the Safety of the Mother and Child of Neurostimulation for Chronic Low Back Pain during Pregnancy

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Abstract

Treatment for low back pain in pregnancy is an exceptionally difficult issue. In point of fact, it is necessary to strike a balance between the patient's need to manage pain and the need to avoid harming the foetus during pregnancy. We report an instance of a 37-year-old person with low back pain treated with neuro stimulation before pregnancy. She described severe, persistent low back pain that did not respond to medication. After implanting a subcutaneous stimulator and a definitive stimulator, we were able to effectively manage the patient's pain. The woman was able to get pregnant as a result of the improvement in her quality of life. During the patient's pregnancy, we made the decision not to continue neuro stimulation. The patient had no problems during her pregnancy and the baby was born healthy. The pregnant woman only took paracetamol when she needed to. However, this anecdotal, painful symptomatology is not solely attributable to the previous spine issue; rather, it is probably also related to the changes that take place during pregnancy. The patient experienced no pain when the neuro stimulator was reactivated at the end of her pregnancy. This case study provides the first piece of evidence for a possible risk-free treatment for low back pain in pregnant women.

Keywords: Neurostimulation • Foetus • Cardio versions

Introduction

A health, social and financial issue, chronic low back pain is a problem. In point of fact, it is becoming increasingly apparent that this pathology, which frequently lacks a clearly defined etiology, is a condition with extremely high healthcare costs, lost workdays and diminished functional capacity. Low back pain serves as a model for the new conception of chronic pain as a bio psychosocial phenomenon. Even though the condition is so common, not only in terms of numbers but also in terms of where it affects people, there is no one-size-fits-all approach to treating it and guidelines are frequently inconsistent. However, there is general agreement that chronic pain is pathology in and of itself that, like acute pain, has lost its protective significance due to relevant neurological modifications. A few examinations mostly *in vitro* and concerning potential medicines for degenerative sicknesses of the sensory system or cell harm, have shown how nerve cells are delicate to electromagnetic fields and direct their development as per the actual field. There is no consensus regarding the *in vivo* effect of electromagnetic fields on pregnancy. Using an electric thermal blanket while pregnant and being exposed to an electromagnetic field greater than 2 mg are not linked to an increased risk of underweight babies or babies with intrauterine growth retardation. Exposures of >16 mg have been shown to increase the risk of spontaneous abortion in studies on the effects of electromagnetic fields on pregnant women.

Discussion

Early miscarriages (before 10 weeks) benefit more from this type of

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Received: 01 November, 2022, Manuscript No. jsp-22-84815; **Editor assigned:** 03 November, 2022, PreQC No. P-84815; **Reviewed:** 15 November, 2022, QC No. Q-84815; **Revised:** 21 November, 2022, Manuscript No. R-84815; **Published:** 29 November, 2022, DOI: 10.37421/2165-7939.2022.11.570

relationship. Several studies in which pregnant women underwent electrical cardio versions or received accidental electric shocks were compared and found to have no effect on the pregnancy or foetus. In view of this information and taking into account the a lot more modest measure of electrical and electromagnetic powers created by spinal rope feeling (SCS), it very well may be expected that low voltages are sensibly protected. Additionally, when the implantable pulse generator (IPG) is positioned in the gluteal region, the vertebrae, pelvis and tissues act as an insulator, even though the device's recharging produces electromotive forces that are significantly greater than those of the switched system itself. The hypothesis that neuro stimulation can cause uterine contractions does not have any scientific backing [1].

During pregnancy, neuro stimulation may have the effects. The foetus, malformations in the foetus are teratogenic. On ladies and pregnancy abortion, preterm birth, skin irritation and ulceration caused by stretching the battery, obstetrical or anaesthetic issues or complications and pain at the electrode or implant site are all possible outcomes. On the gadget: the battery running out, the electrode moving around and the extension stretching as the abdomen gets bigger. Electrical stimulation should be avoided during the first trimester, which is the most critical time. It is highly unlikely that neuro stimulation's electromotive forces will reach the developing foetus. Research and patient care in the field of chronic pain are challenging endeavours. In point of fact, for adequate pain management and functional recovery, treatments that combine invasive techniques with cutting-edge pharmacological treatments are frequently required [2].

Not just pain control is the most important goal of managing chronic pain; full functional recovery and increased quality of life are also important goals. When pregnancy is involved, all of this becomes even more complicated, limiting therapeutic options even for medical-legal reasons. Additionally, low back pain is a condition that occurs fairly frequently during pregnancy (with a prevalence of 24 to 90%). Pregnancy-related low back pain can have significant repercussions for a woman's personal life and quality of life, such as affecting sleep quality and duration. It is a field of research whose etiology and treatment aspects are still a mystery. However, it appears that one of the most significant established risk factors is a history of low back pain prior to pregnancy. Fewer than half of pregnant women with low back pain receive adequate (pharmacological and/or invasive) treatments, despite the prevalence of the effects on quality of life. In a failed back surgery syndrome (FBSS), neuro stimulation can be an important alternative to medication [3].

In fact, neuro stimulation involves inserting electrical devices that can either modulate or block the painful signal. When medication fails to control pain, neuro stimulation plays a crucial role. In fact, the FBSS is a difficult condition to treat and may not respond to medication alone.

This case study demonstrates how complete functional recovery can be achieved with adequate pain management. For women of childbearing age, several authors recommend placing the lead through an upper lumbar or thoracic medullary access and, if at all possible, placing the implantable pulse generator (IPG) in the gluteal region rather than the abdominal one. These two suggestions are made with the intention of not compromising any anaesthetic manoeuvres, such as the choice to perform subarachnoid loco regional anaesthesia for a caesarean section or the placement of an epidural catheter for the delivery of analgesics, thereby reducing the risk of stretching the extension (with growth abdominal diameter) and preventing any surgical difficulties. Subarachnoid anaesthesia does not pose any additional risk to patients who have a neuro stimulation implant, according to a number of authors, provided that the puncture is located below the device. With the usual foresight of keeping lower than the device when positioning the epidural catheter, even epidural anaesthesia and catheter placement were not associated with lead migration issues.

The administration of anaesthetic boluses, on the other hand, must be handled with extreme caution to ensure absolute sterility due to the possibility of implant infections, which are uncommon. In pregnant ladies with an embed, the decision of elective caesarean area is in many cases considered as the main choice. Some authors say that the sacral stimulators could be damaged by the thrusts of a woman in the gynaecological position, where she puts all of her weight on her buttocks, which helps to justify this choice. However, the evidence does not support this. According to studies on malfunctioning, caesarean sections occur more frequently (38%) than vaginal deliveries (25%). Thusly, the sign for a caesarean segment ought to just concern obstetric issues and in addition to the reality of including a neuro stimulator. In our instance, the caesarean section was recommended not because the electro stimulator was present but rather because of two additional factors. The first, which dealt with obstetrics, said that the patient's particular spine situation made risk-free labour impossible. It is important to note that obstetric surgery is one of the medical specialties in which there are the most legal complaints in Italy [4].

The patient's choice was the second factor. In point of fact, the so-called "self-determination" of a pregnant woman who chooses to have a caesarean section rather than face a difficult and risky labour is one of the reasons why caesarean sections are performed in Italy. In order to stay away from drugs that could cause teratogenic effects, the stimulator was implanted, which allowed for two reasons. The first is unquestionably an increase in quality of life, with the return to normal personal life and gait. The suspension of risky

medications, which were required for inadequate pain management prior to implantation, was the second reason. It is important to point out that the patient stopped taking any drugs after the stimulator was inserted, with the exception of paracetamol when it was necessary. This allowed the patient to give birth to a healthy child while maintaining the health of the fetus [5].

Conclusion

The rehabilitation option, which is also important in the treatment of chronic low back pain, deserves special mention. We provided the patient with the recommended physiotherapy and rehabilitation services. However, the patient's extremely poor quality of life, which prevented her from engaging in any form of physical activity, was the reason she refused such treatments. We chose an attack therapy because it could quickly restore an acceptable quality of life, even though we were aware of the extreme importance of a multidisciplinary treatment. Additionally, we were not permitted to waste any more time on a patient who required immediate improvement and the evidence of rehabilitation is present but of poor quality.

Acknowledgement

None.

Conflict of Interest

None.

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How to cite this article: Clark, Harris. "Effects on the Safety of the Mother and Child of Neurostimulation for Chronic Low Back Pain during Pregnancy." *J Spine* 11 (2022): 570.