RELATIONSHIPS OF RISK FACTORS FOR PRE-ECLAMPSIA WITH BLOOD PRESSURE CHANGES DURING NORMAL TERM PREGNANCY: THE AVON LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN (ALSPAC)  

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Objective It is unclear whether established risk factors for pre-eclampsia are related to blood pressure (BP) changes across pregnancy in women who do not develop pre-eclampsia. We investigated these associations.

Methods We studied routine antenatal BP measurements for 11 789 women (median 14 per woman) in ALSPAC who had a live term pregnancy without pre-eclampsia or previous hypertension. Linear spline random effects models with knots at 15, 30 and 36 weeks gestation described changes in BP with gestational age.

Results On average systolic BP (SBP) and diastolic BP (DBP) decreased until 18 weeks and then rose, with increasing rate at 30 and then again at 36 weeks. SBP was higher at 8 weeks for obese women compared with normal weight women, nulliparas compared with multiparas, and for never-smokers compared with women who smoked throughout pregnancy or in the first trimester only. Women who smoked throughout pregnancy had consistently lower BP while women who smoked only in the first trimester attained a similar BP trajectory to never-smokers in late pregnancy. BP rose more slowly between 18 and 30 weeks and more rapidly between 30 and 36 weeks in obese women than in normal weight women. Nulliparous women had faster rises in DBP from 30 weeks and SBP from 36 weeks than multiparous women and twin pregnancies were associated with faster rises in BP from 30 weeks.

Conclusion Established pre-eclampsia risk factors are associated with the pattern of BP changes in healthy pregnancy, suggesting that they affect BP change across the whole distribution.

MENTAL ILLNESS RELATED DISPARITIES IN DIABETES PREVALENCE, QUALITY OF CARE AND OUTCOMES: A POPULATION-BASED LONGITUDINAL STUDY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA FROM 1990 TO 2006  

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Introduction To compare the prevalence of diabetes, quality of care and outcomes between mental health clients (MHCs) and non-MHCs.

Methods Population-based longitudinal study of 139 208 MHCs and 294 180 matched non-MHCs in Western Australia from 1990 to 2006, using linked data of electoral roll registrations, mental health registry, hospital admissions and deaths. We used the electoral roll as the sampling frame for both cohorts to enhance internal validity and the mental health registry to separate MHCs from non-MHCs. Rates of first PPHs (overall and by PPH categories and conditions) were compared between MHCs, type of mental disorders and non-MHCs. Both unadjusted and adjusted analyses controlled for sociodemographic factors and case mix were performed using Cox regression models.

Results PPHs accounted for >45% of all hospital admissions in both cohorts, predominantly chronic PPHs (88% in MHCs and 90% in non-MHCs). MHCs with any mental disorders were more likely to be hospitalised for any PPH conditions than non-MHCs (overall adjusted rate ratio (ARR), 1.14; 95% CI 1.13 to 1.15). ARRs were highest for chronic PPHs (1.18, 1.16 to 1.21), especially congestive heart failure (1.27, 1.21 to 1.32), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (1.24, 1.18 to 1.31) and diabetes complications (1.19, 1.15 to 1.23); and highest for other psychoses (1.51, 1.46 to 1.56), alcohol/drug disorders (1.34, 1.29 to 1.39), schizophrenia (1.15, 1.09 to 1.21) and depressive disorders (1.14, 1.08 to 1.19).

Conclusion People with mental illness deserve special attention in improving the quality of physical healthcare at primary care level.

DO MENTAL HEALTH CLIENTS LACK ACCESS TO GENERAL PRACTITIONER SERVICES?  

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Introduction Emerging evidence indicates an association between mental illness and low-intensity of physical healthcare. To test this, we compared mental health clients (MHCs) with non-MHCs for the quality of primary care, using potentially preventable hospitalisations (PPHs) as an indicator.

Methods Population-based retrospective cohort study of 139 208 MHCs and 294 180 matched non-MHCs in Western Australia from 1990 to 2006, using linked data of electoral roll registrations, mental health registry, hospital admissions and deaths. We used the electoral roll as the sampling frame for both cohorts to enhance internal validity and the mental health registry to separate MHCs from non-MHCs. Rates of first PPHs (overall and by PPH categories and conditions) were compared between MHCs, type of mental disorders and non-MHCs. Both unadjusted and adjusted analyses controlled for sociodemographic factors and case mix were performed using Cox regression models.

Results PPHs accounted for >45% of all hospital admissions in both cohorts, predominantly chronic PPHs (88% in MHCs and 90% in non-MHCs). MHCs with any mental disorders were more likely to be hospitalised for any PPH conditions than non-MHCs (overall adjusted rate ratio (ARR), 1.14; 95% CI 1.13 to 1.15). ARRs were highest for chronic PPHs (1.18, 1.16 to 1.21), especially congestive heart failure (1.27, 1.21 to 1.32), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (1.24, 1.18 to 1.31) and diabetes complications (1.19, 1.15 to 1.23); and highest for other psychoses (1.51, 1.46 to 1.56), alcohol/drug disorders (1.34, 1.29 to 1.39), schizophrenia (1.15, 1.09 to 1.21) and depressive disorders (1.14, 1.08 to 1.19).

Conclusion People with mental illness deserve special attention in improving the quality of physical healthcare at primary care level.