



PerinatalPath

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Beyond Apgars: Clinically Unsuspected Placental Chorangiomas Not Predicted By Smoking Or Asthma

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Histologic examination of placentas from >500 consecutive deliveries at a community hospital revealed an unexpectedly high incidence of signs associated with chronic intrauterine hypoxia such as chorangiomas. The pregnancies were relatively low risk. The hospital has limited Level II nursery capacity and high risk cases tend to be referred to a nearby institution. On the other hand, the socioeconomic status is low.

When all Apgars were >7, 39.44% (140/355) showed chorangiomas. When 1 minute Apgars were <8 the incidence of chorangiomas was nearly identical at 39.47% (15/38). The five intrauterine deaths and those without clinical information were excluded.

The records which included prenatal information were analyzed for the possible contribution of smoking and asthma. Only three cases of asthma were identified and included one from each high Apgar with chorangiomas and low Apgar with and without chorangiomas. Smoking was also relatively infrequent with only twelve cases found and none of them showed chorangiomas. The amount smoked was low with only one of the mothers admitting to more than 10 cigarettes/day and only two said they smoked 10 cigarettes/day. Nine of the smokers had high Apgars and three had low Apgars. The non smokers in the high Apgar group showed 37.62% (41/109) with chorangiomas, which is similar to the overall rate. Only seven of the low Apgar group were non-smokers and only one of them showed chorangiomas. The only subgroup with adequate numbers for analysis showed a rate similar to the larger groups, indicating a lack of predictability.

The clinical risk factors for intrauterine hypoxia of smoking and asthma were not predictive of chorangiomas in this study of low risk, low socioeconomic mothers, but the number of cases with the risks documented is low and further study is indicated.