

Pregnancy and birth outcomes in women with facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy. Authors: Ciafaloni E, Pressman EK, Loi AM, Smirnow AM, Guntrum DJ, Dilek N, Tawil R.

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More information is needed regarding obstetric risk and birth outcomes for women with FSHD. Investigators at the University of Rochester conducted a clinical study to address this need. They recruited women with FSHD who were enrolled in the National Registry. Questionnaires were sent to members of the Registry who were interested in participating in this clinical study. The questionnaire focused on genetic counseling, severity of FSHD symptoms during pregnancy, and complications of pregnancy and birth. 48 Registry members participated in the study and completed their questionnaire.

Results indicated that fetal distress and obstetric infection occurred at a rate comparable to the overall national average. The frequency of cesarean section delivery and operative vaginal delivery were also compared to national rates and were more prevalent for women with FSHD. Other findings were that 24% of participants reported an increase in the severity of muscle symptoms after child birth. Symptoms that were exacerbated included generalized weakness, falling, and worsening or new-onset of muscle skeletal pain.

The authors found that pregnancy and birth outcomes in this population were generally favorable. Increased frequency of low birth weight and the potential risk for anesthetic complications were identified as areas for further research.

More results and conclusions can be found at:

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17130433?ordinalpos=1&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultsPanel.Pubmed_RVDocSum