Second trimester Medical Termination of pregnancy: Indications and outcome

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Introduction

Second trimester abortions constitute 10-15% of all induced abortions worldwide but are responsible for two-thirds of major abortion-related complications.

Objective

We hereby discuss the indications and outcomes of second trimester medical termination of pregnancy (MTPs) performed in a single unit our center in the last 1 year.

Method

Design: Retrospective observational study of 1 year
The hospital records were searched for women undergoing MTP in one of the three units in the last 1 year and records of women undergoing second trimester MTP were taken out for details.

Results

- A total of **38 women** underwent second trimester MTP
- Minimum age **15** and maximum age **39** years.
- **52.6% of MTPs (20)** done for **fetal indications** like congenital malformations, aneuploidies, and other genetic disorders.
- **Maternal medical indications** like decompensated liver disease, severe hypertension and leukemia accounted for **18.4 % (7)**
- **Unwanted pregnancy** accounted for **21% (8)** of the terminations, 2 adolescents who had conceived after sexual assault.
- Scarred uterus: **21%,** previous 2/more caesareans : **10%**
- Procedure delayed by 2 weeks in **10.5% women (4)** during the peak of pandemic

Mode of termination

- Medical in 89.4% (34)
- Hysterotomy: **10.6%(4).**

Complications:

- **Blood transfusion:** preexisting anemia : 2 (1 Packed cell transfusion each)
  increased blood loss: placenta accreta: 1 (2 transfusions)
- **Mortality**: One mortality in a case of Acute Myeloid leukemia.
- Laparotomy for appendicitis on day 3 of abortion ➡ abdominal tuberculosis and haemophagocytic lymphohystiocytosis on day 11 of abortion.
  Patient expired on day 19 of abortion due to sepsis with multiorgan dysfunction.

Conclusion

- MTP for unwanted pregnancy reaching till the second trimester depicts the unmet need of contraception or fear of contraceptive usage among the population. Also, the taboo around abortion services still prevails in some societies in India despite the country being a pioneer in legalizing abortion services
- Second trimester MTPs are safe when performed in health care facilities with availability of blood bank and Multidisciplinary services in women with medical comorbidities.