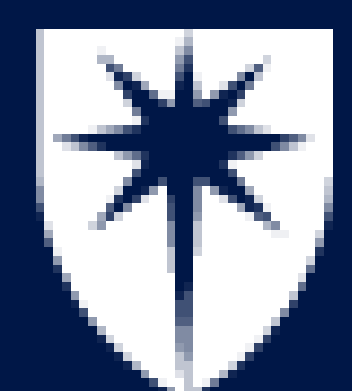




Developing Autism Care Pathways in Obstetric Care is fundamental to address health inequalities.

Objective

Development of Autism Care Pathways in obstetric care to provide a multidisciplinary approach to support the complexity of autistic families needs.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS: (Increased Prevalence)

Pre diabetes
Diabetes Type 1 and 2
PCOS
Hypertension
Thyroid Disorders
Autoimmune Disorders
Obesity
Epilepsy
Cardiac Arrhythmia

CO-OCCURRING CONDITIONS:

Connective Tissue Disorders
Ehlers Danlos Syndrome
Hypermobility
Fragile X
Fibromyalgia
Sensory Processing Issues
Learning Difficulties
ADHD
Eating Disorders/Anorexia
Non-Binary/ Gender Fluid

Autism

CARE OUTCOMES: (Increased Prevalence)

LSCS
Pre-eclampsia
Preterm labour and birth
PTSD, Suicide
PN Depression. Anxiety
Exploitation
Physical/Sexual/Domestic Abuse
Social Services Intervention
Non compliance with care and treatment

Discussion

Raising autism awareness, understanding and acceptance in obstetric care and pre-registration training is key. Linking care outcomes with targeted care provision is crucial to improve inequalities, by exploring the medical and care needs of these women and people with empathy and compassion.

Background

80% of autistic women are not diagnosed by the time they turn 18 (1). Therefore, many pregnant women may not have a diagnosis or support in place. Women may 'mask' or hide their needs in childhood and adulthood, leading to lifelong health inequalities impacting on psychological, physiological and sociological wellbeing of families. In pregnancy, this may lead to crisis support and intervention from a wide multidisciplinary team. Obstetricians need to develop care pathways to support this complex health presentation in partnership with autistic pregnant women and people.

Next Steps

- National Guidelines
- Obstetric Autism Care Pathways
- Autism Leads in Obstetrics
- Practitioner Training
- Pre-Registration Training
- Develop Risk Assessment Tools
- Ensure 'reasonable adjustments'

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