

SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF ABVD PROTOCOL IN PREGNANT PATIENTS WITH CLASSIC HODGKIN LYMPHOMA: A SINGLE CENTER EXPERIENCE

Shaimaa EL-Ashwah¹, Salma Elashwah², Malak S. Najah³, Gehad A. Saleh⁴, Eman M Ibrahim⁵, Yasmine Shaaban¹
1Clinical Hematology, Oncology Center, Mansoura University (OCMU), Faculty of Medicine, Mansoura, Egypt.
2Medical Oncology, Oncology Center, Mansoura University (OCMU), Faculty of Medicine, Mansoura, Egypt.
3Medical Student, Manchester Program, Faculty of Medicine, Mansoura University, Mansoura, Egypt.
4Intervention Radiology Department, Faculty of Medicine, Mansoura University, Mansoura, Egypt.
5Department of Anatomic Pathology, faculty of medicine, Mansoura university .Mansoura, Egypt.



INTRODUCTION

Classic Hodgkin lymphoma (cHL) is a lymphoid neoplasm which originates from B-cell lymphocytes. Fertility concerns are increasingly relevant with intensive chemotherapy. cHL is the most common hematologic malignancy diagnosed during pregnancy, as its peak incidence coincides with the reproductive years.

AIM

To explore maternal and fetal outcomes of pregnant patients with cHL.

METHOD

Retrospective observational study analyzing clinical, biochemical, pathology, staging, and treatment variables in seven pregnant cHL patients. Oncology Center, Mansoura University, 2010–2024.

RESULTS

- Seven patients were pregnant at initial lymphoma diagnosis [3 (42.8%) first trimester, 2 (28.6%) second, and 2 (28.6%) third] Figure 1. Median age was 24 years (range, 21–38). Three patients had B symptoms. Five presented with advanced stage.
- Therapeutic termination of pregnancy was performed in two cases in first trimester to prioritize maternal survival and the initiation of chemotherapy. These included a patient 45 days post-IVF presented with symptomatic dyspnea and stage IV-B, bulky disease, and a second patient at 12 weeks’ gestation with antiphospholipid syndrome, while three cases delivered then started chemotherapy and the remaining 2 cases received chemotherapy during pregnancy then delivered full term babies with no reported congenital anomalies Figure 2. All patients received ABVD (doxorubicin, bleomycin, vinblastine, and dacarbazine) ± involved field radiotherapy (IFRT).
- Overall response was achieved in 85.7% (6/7). One patient with primary resistant disease failed multiple subsequent salvages. Advanced-stage disease did not preclude durable CR. The OS ranged from 7.1 - 161.83 months Figure 3.

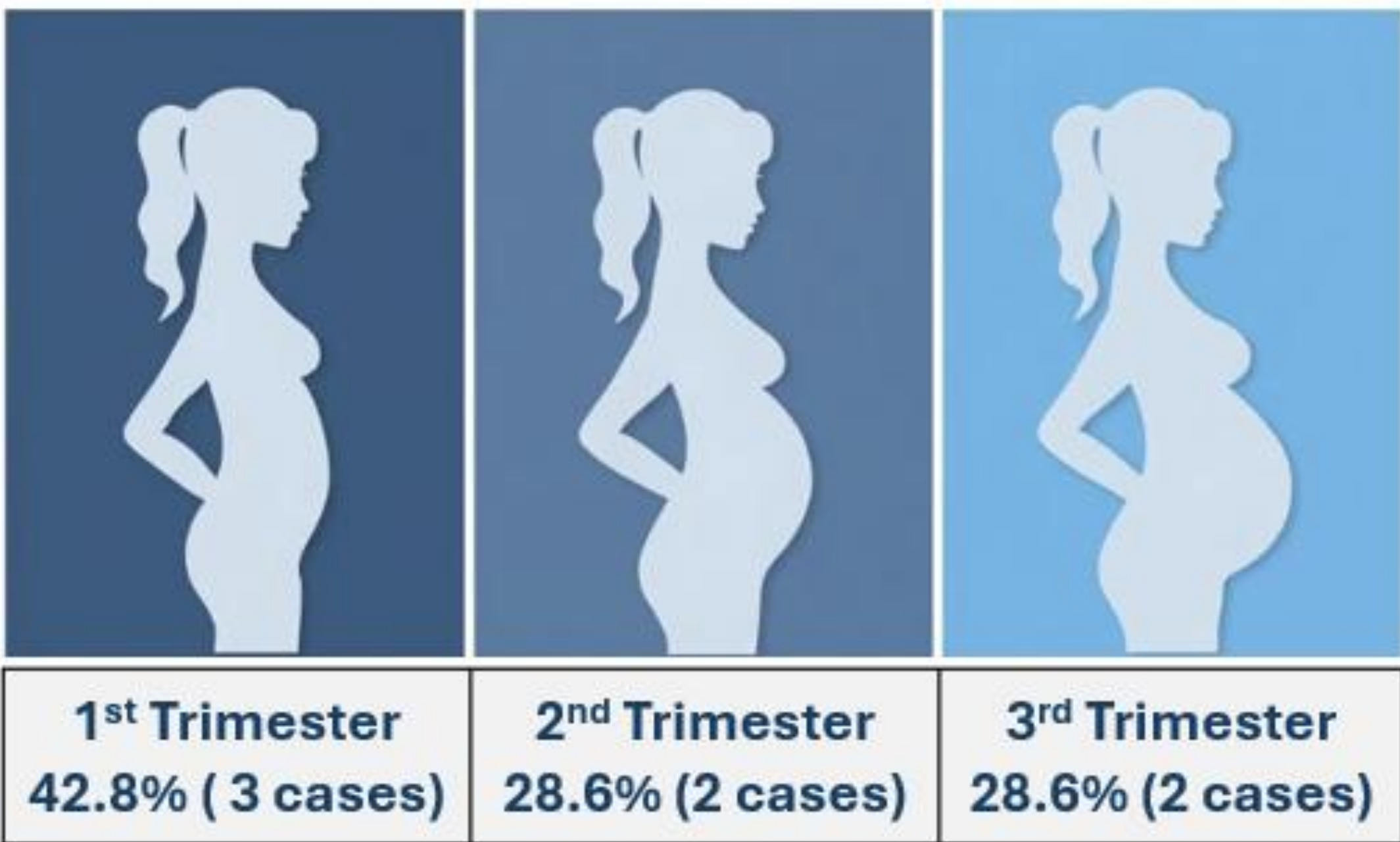


Figure 1: Trimester distribution among pregnant cHL patients

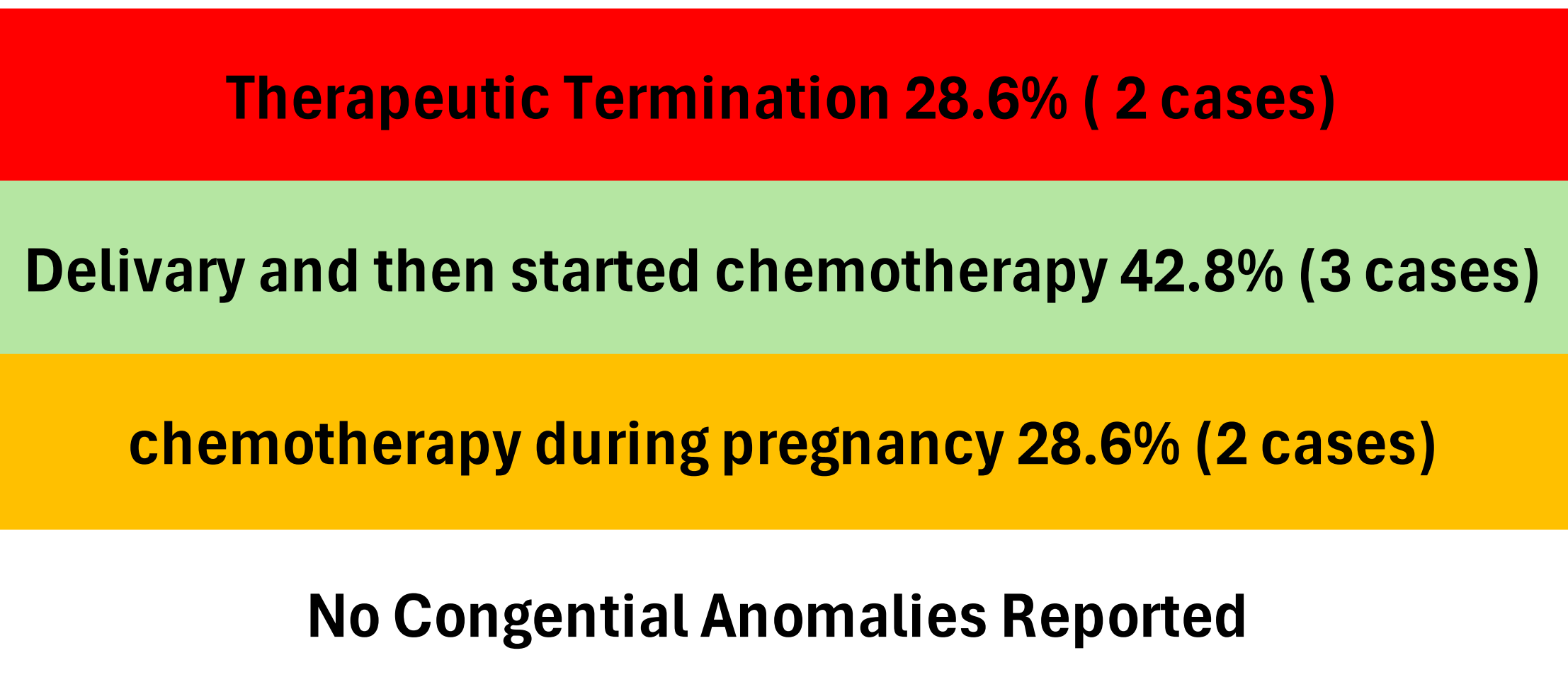


Figure 2: Pregnancy management and outcomes

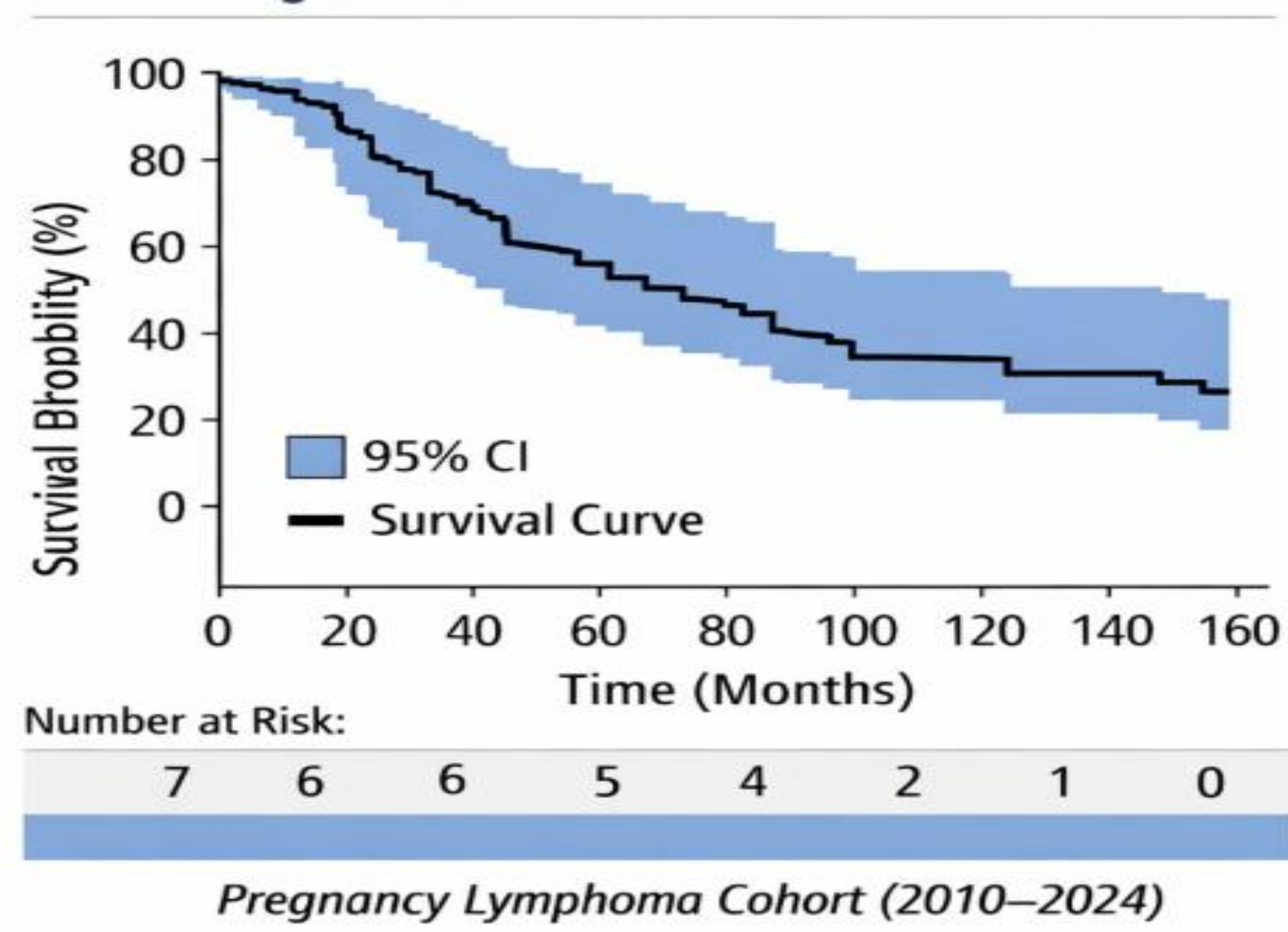


Figure 3: Kaplan–Meier curve showing OS

CONCLUSION

- Therapeutic strategies were tailored, integrating symptomatic burden of disease, gestational age, and patient preferences to optimize the balance between maternal disease control and fetal outcomes. This cohort supports the safety profile of ABVD during pregnancy, including cases of advanced-stage cHL—while highlighting the critical necessity of MDT involvement, shared decision-making, & comprehensive patient counseling.

REFERENCES

- Bröckelmann PJ, McMullen S, Wilson JB, Mueller K, Goring S, Stamatoullas A, et al. Patient and physician preferences for first-line treatment of classical Hodgkin lymphoma in Germany, France and the United Kingdom. *British journal of haematology*. 2019;184(2):202-14.
- Dell'Aquila K, Hodges H, Moshiri M, Katz DS, Elojeimy S, Revzin MV, et al. Imaging evaluation of lymphoma in pregnancy with review of clinical assessment and treatment options. *Abdominal Radiology*. 2023;48(5):1663-78..
- Iftikhar R, Bangash MH, Bazarbachi A, Mir MA, Al-Mansour M, Arif S, et al. Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Hodgkin Lymphoma in Countries with Restricted Resources. *Blood Global Hematology*. 2026:100080.
- AI-assisted figure design, finalized by the authors.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Shaimaa El-Ashwah, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Hematology,
Oncology Center, Mansoura University (OCMU),
Faculty of Medicine, Egypt
Shaimaasaber@mans.edu.eg