

# Pregnancy outcomes examined for women with multiple sclerosis

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(HealthDay)—Women with pregnancy after versus before a multiple

sclerosis (MS) diagnosis have fewer children and at an older age, according to a study published in the Feb. 1 issue of *Multiple Sclerosis and Related Disorders*.

Bernardita Soler, from the Hospital Doctor Sótero del Río in Santiago, Chile, and colleagues explored the trends in [pregnancy](#) decision-making and outcomes before and after MS diagnosis (PreMS and PostMS, respectively). A questionnaire was developed for retrospective assessment of pregnancy outcomes; 218 women responded to the questionnaire, of whom 67 did not have pregnancies.

The researchers found that 299 pregnancies were registered, including 223 PreMS (97 women; mean,  $2.5 \pm 1.3$  per women) and 76 PostMS (59 women; mean,  $1.9 \pm 1.1$  per woman). In PreMS and PostMS women, mean age at first pregnancy was  $27.6 \pm 6.2$  and  $32.6 \pm 4.6$  years, respectively. Certain pregnancy outcomes differed significantly for PreMS and PostMS, including [cesarean section](#) (37 versus 66 percent; odds ratio, 2.74); suspected relapse during six months after birth (7 versus 18 percent); and breastfeeding (83 versus 67 percent). There was no difference observed between the groups in gestational age and weight/size at birth. Major malformations were similar in the groups.

"More evidence is needed in order to support decision making and to improve the care of [women](#) with MS who are of childbearing age," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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