

Pregnancy outcomes examined for women with multiple sclerosis

January 13 2021



(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 ± 1.3 per women) and 76 PostMS (59 women; mean, 1.9 ± 1.1 per woman). In PreMS and PostMS women, mean age at first pregnancy was 27.6 ± 6.2 and 32.6 ± 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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Citation: Pregnancy outcomes examined for women with multiple sclerosis (2021, January 13) retrieved 16 June 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-01-pregnancy-outcomes-women-multiple-sclerosis.html>

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