

THE USE OF SPIROMETRY IN THE ASSESSMENT OF PULMONARY FUNCTION IN WOMEN WITH COMPLICATED AND NORMAL PREGNANCY

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Abstract

Pulmonary function test in pregnant women is of great importance due to the increasing number of women with acute and chronic respiratory diseases. These disorders are diagnosed in 2 % of pregnant women, while mortality from lung diseases is ranked third (13%) among non-obstetric diseases. Particularly high the maternal mortality value was during the epidemic of A H1N1 influenza. Based on the results of analysis of that outbreak the risk factors for pneumonia, related to maternal chronic respiratory diseases and smoking, were allocated.

Objective. To examine the respiratory system in pregnant women and evaluate the presence of co-morbidity, smoking status and specific obstetric factors.

Methods. A detailed medical history including concomitant conditions, active and passive smoking was collected. A spirometry tests were performed.

Results. A moderate ventilation disturbances were revealed in 23 % of apparently healthy women, regardless of pregnancy course and smoking status. High prevalence of active (35%) and passive (29%) smoking was noted among pregnant women with normal and complicated pregnancy. Two cases of newly diagnosed pulmonary diseases (COPD and asthma) were revealed.

Conclusion. Due to the increased prevalence of respiratory diseases in pregnant women, a spirometry is a safe and effective method of assessment of pulmonary function. It allows to diagnose respiratory disorders even in the third trimester of pregnancy when the mild decrease of lung function is observed even among healthy pregnant women. High prevalence of smoking in pregnant women and their family members is a subject of special antismoking programs development.

Key words: pregnancy, smoking, spirometry.

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