SUCCESSFUL PREGNANCY OUTCOME WITH INTERFERON-ALPHA IN HAEMATOLOGICAL PATIENTS

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Background

Pegylated Interferon-alpha 2b (pegIFNα2b) is an effective agent for the treatment of haematological malignancies. Due to the lack of DNA synthesis inhibition, this agent may be safe for use during pregnancy.

Purpose

To describe 2 cases of successful pregnancies in patients with haematological disorders treated with pegIFNα2b.

Materials and methods

Medical record review and literature research.

Results

Patient 1

(30 years old)

Diagnosed with POLYCYTHAEMIA VERA at age 13, well-controlled with HYDROXYUREA. Patient desire of a second pregnancy

Chemotherapy was interrupted and therapy with pegIFNα2b, 50 mcg/week subcutaneously was initiated.

She became pregnant, but was hospitalized due to cephalaea.

Dose reduction to 30 mcg/week of pegIFNα2b 40 weeks of pregnancy

A healthy male infant was delivered.

Patient development hypothyroidism which was treated with LEVOTHYROXINE.

Patient desire to conceive a child

PegIFNα2b dose was increased to 80 mcg/week due to molecular remission loss.

A healthy male infant was delivered.

Patient developed hypothyroidism which was treated with LEVOTHYROXINE.

During first pregnancy, she received non-pegylated INFα2b, with good progression but low tolerance due to influenza-like disease. Because of that, pegIFNα2b was selected in the second pregnancy.

Both were normal full-term deliveries. Infant growth and development have been normal to date (follow-up time of 2 and 3 years).

Conclusions

PegIFNα2b was well-tolerated, secure and effective and caused no complications during the pregnancies. Since chemotherapy agents involve teratogenic effects, pegIFNα2b might be a safe therapy option during pregnancy, although further teratogenic studies are necessary.

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