

Zika and spontaneous abortion

Zika y aborto espontáneo

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Dear Editor,

We read the publication on "Zika as a cause of spontaneous abortion in endemic areas" with a great interest¹. Rivadeneyra-Espinar et al.¹ concluded that "Zika infection during pregnancy must be suspected and diagnosed promptly to offer comprehensive care. The loss of conception in these patients has been documented with results of chorionic villus biopsies, finding Zika virus (ZIKV) RNA and suggesting spontaneous abortion early during viremia"¹. In the present report, Rivadeneyra-Espinar et al.¹ reported a case, which is concordant with another recent report by Goncé et al.². We would like to share some ideas with this case report.

First, ZIKV infection is endemic in several areas of the world and most of the cases are asymptomatic³. Focusing on the pregnant subject, the infection can occur and might or might not affect the pregnancy outcome and infant health. The persistence of the virus in the placental tissue is possible but does not confirm the relationship between viral infection and abortion or fetal pathology or infantile health problems⁴. In tropical Southeast Asia, Zika is also an endemic disease and there are many infected pregnant subjects. However, to the extent of our knowledge, no studies on the intrapartum ZIKV infection related to abortion in Southeast Asia have been reported⁵. In an area with high rate of

ZIKV immunoreactivity, such as Cambodia⁶, no reports have been published on the congenital ZIKV syndrome or spontaneous abortion in pregnant women. Indeed, there are no previous studies on testing for acute or recent infections with ZIKV among women who have had spontaneous abortions. The exact pathological relationship between the presence of ZIKV in the chorionic villi and pregnancy outcome should be further researched.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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