

Health

Diet pills signal eating disorder

Weight-loss surgery between pregnancies cuts risks: study

NEW YORK, Dec 8, (RTRS): Obese women who have weight-loss surgery between pregnancies may be less likely to experience complications like high blood pressure and preterm births in their second pregnancy, a recent study suggests.

Researchers examined hospital records from 2002 to 2014 for more than 1.6 million women 15 to 45 years old in New South Wales, Australia. The study focused on 326 women who had bariatric surgery between their first and second pregnancies and 461,917 women who had two pregnancies without a weight-loss operation in between.

The study found that for obese women who had the surgery between pregnancies, the risk of complications dropped markedly from the first pregnancy to the second, although it didn't reach the level seen in the general population of women.

Outcomes

"The odds of adverse pregnancy outcomes among women who have bariatric surgery do not decrease to the level observed in the general birthing population; however, there was substantial improvement," lead study author Dr I. Ibiabele of Royal North Shore Hospital in New South Wales and colleagues write in BJOG.

"Although body mass index (BMI) was not directly assessed in this study, bariatric surgery performed for the management of obesity, in accordance with current clinical criteria, is likely to result in improved pregnancy outcomes in women who have a subsequent pregnancy," Ibiabele and colleagues write.

During the study period, there was a 13-fold increase in hospitalizations for women having bariatric surgery for the first time, the analysis found.

Compared with women in the general population, those who had bariatric surgery had higher rates of high blood pressure, diabetes and preterm deliveries overall.

But women who had bariatric surgery between their first and second pregnancies were 61% less likely to experience high blood pressure, 37% less likely to have infants that were large for their gestational age, 63% less likely to have a preemie and 36% less likely to have their baby sent to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) than in their first pregnancies.

Population

Women who had surgery and those in the general population were around the same age when they had their first pregnancy. But the women who had bariatric surgery waited an average of two years longer to have their second child, the study found.

The women who had bariatric surgeries between pregnancies were also more likely to use assistive reproductive technology (ART) to conceive and to have multiples.

Even though diabetes and high blood pressure rates were higher for women who had bariatric surgery between pregnancies, these women did have a bigger drop in the risk of these complications from one pregnancy to the next compared to the general population.

After bariatric surgery, women's risk of high blood pressure in

the second pregnancy fell by 67%, compared with a 49% reduction for women who didn't have the weight loss procedures.

And the risk of gestational diabetes, a form of diabetes that develops during pregnancy, dropped by 39% in second pregnancies for women who had bariatric surgery, compared with a 24% decline for women who didn't have surgery. This difference, however, was too small to rule out the possibility that it was due to chance.

Although preterm birth rates were higher in the bariatric group in first pregnancies, in second pregnancies there was a 63% reduction in the odds of preterm birth in the bariatric surgery group compared with a 20% reduction for women who didn't have surgery.

For women who had bariatric surgery between pregnancies, the odds of having an infant large for its gestational age were higher in the first pregnancy. But the risk of this outcome decreased 37% in the second pregnancy, compared with a 74% increase among women who didn't have bariatric surgery.

The study wasn't designed to prove whether or how weight loss surgery might directly impact pregnancy outcomes.

One limitation of the analysis is that researchers lacked BMI data to see if the magnitude of weight change between pregnancies might have influenced the risk of various complications.

Also:

NEW YORK: Teens and young women who use diet pills and laxatives for weight control are five to six times more likely to be diagnosed with an eating disorder in the next three years, a US study suggests.

Using these medications for weight loss can be dangerous and may be a warning sign to consider counseling because there is an increased risk for developing an eating disorder such as anorexia or bulimia, the study authors write in the American Journal of Public Health.

"Advertising for these products is common on social media, and the products are easily accessible at local pharmacies and groceries, which gives young people the mistaken idea that they are safe to use," said **Jordan Levinson** of Boston Children's Hospital's Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine, the study's lead author.

"But this could not be further from the truth. These products are not medically recommended for healthy weight management and can even be dangerous," she told Reuters Health by email. "When young people get their hands on these easily accessible yet harmful products, they are put at risk for disordered weight control behaviors and, as our study suggests, may even put them on a path to develop an eating disorder."

Levinson and colleagues analyzed data on more than 10,000 US women between ages 14 and 36, who were participating in a long-term study. The women were surveyed annually about whether they had used diet pills or laxatives for weight loss during the past year, and whether they'd received a new diagnosis of an eating disorder.



In this image from video, a red flag hangs outside homes of residents who have not been vaccinated in Apia, Samoa on Dec 5. Samoa's main streets were eerily quiet on Thursday as the government stepped up efforts to curb a measles epidemic that has killed 62 people. (AP)

Schools closed, gatherings in parks banned

American Samoa declares measles outbreak

Trial opens door for better control of disease

New typhoid vaccine protects young kids

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa, Dec 8, (AP): The government of American Samoa declared that the US territory has an outbreak of measles, a move that will lead to the closure of public schools starting Monday and a ban on gatherings in parks.

In its announcement Friday of the measles outbreak, the government says the territory has nine cases of the disease. Five of those infected had been traveling outside the territory.

As for the other four people who tested positive for measles, "we're suspecting that is local transmission — meaning that it's most likely, that some of these travelers did transmit the measles virus to them, causing them to be sick," Health Department Epidemiologist Dr Aifili John Tufa said.

Tufa said in a television broadcast that samples from those infected were sent to Hawaii for testing and the results came back Thursday, resulting in the move to let the public know that "we are currently in the state of emergency" and a "measles outbreak."

Infected

In the neighboring independent nation of Samoa, more than 60 people have died, mostly children, from the measles and more than 4,000 were infected since the outbreak started in mid-October, health officials said.

American Samoa will get a measles vaccine shipment from the US Centers for Disease Control and Protection on Monday, Tufa said.

Data presented by health officials early this week during a cabinet meeting shows a 99.7% vaccination rate for mumps, measles and rubella in the territory, officials said.

But Tufa said that more needs to be done to up the rate for the 1-5 year age group which is currently at 84.7%. "The number one way to stop the spread of measles is to immunize," he said.

The developments in American Samoa came after dozens of Hawaii health care workers returned to their homes across the state after voluntarily providing measles vaccinations to thousands of residents of the independent nation of Samoa, officials said.

A team of 76 health care workers and support staff went to Samoa for a two-day medical mission to ensure

boiled or filtered, and their food is properly prepared, Pollard said.

The new test, reported in the New England Journal of Medicine, involved children as young as 9 months. They will be followed for another year in an attempt to determine how long the vaccine protects against typhoid, a bacterial infection often spread through contaminated water in regions of the world with poor sanitation. Untreated, the disease can leave people sick for weeks or months. Children are particularly vulnerable.

Further two-year field tests are also underway in Bangladesh and Africa to gauge its effectiveness there.

The vaccine, known as TCV, has already been endorsed by the World Health Organization's Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety based in part on earlier tests at Oxford "where we vaccinated people and deliberately infected them with typhoid by asking them to drink typhoid in a bicarbonate solution. That demonstrated that the vaccine was protective," said Pollard.

The results from Nepal show the vaccine can work in a setting where typhoid is common.

"I would call this new study more of an implementation and impact study," he said. "These new studies

are about providing confidence in the field about the way the vaccine could be introduced in vaccinating everyone from 9 months to 15 years of age, and it's showing this huge impact."

The TCV, or typhoid conjugate vaccine, was developed by Bharat Biotech International of Hyderabad, India. Except for donating some of the vaccine, sold under the brand name Typhar-TCV, Bharat was not involved in the test.

The vaccine was given to 10,005 children in Lalitpur, Nepal, where the disease is endemic. Another 10,014 were immunized against meningococcal disease (MenA) to serve as a control group. One dose was given. It took about a month for the vaccine to provide protection.

Potential cases of typhoid were identified among children who were reported to have a fever lasting at least two days during a visit to Patan Hospital or one of 18 clinics. Blood cultures were used to confirm the infection. Telephone calls at three-month intervals were used to identify additional cases and vaccination side effects.

While 38 children given meningococcal conjugate vaccine developed typhoid fever, there were only 7 cases among the youngsters given the TCV.

More than 500 people and groups responded ready to volunteer about 2600 miles (4,200 kilometers) southwest of Hawaii, officials said.

"I hope the younger generation will realize health care can also touch other people's lives and can be a way for them to make things better for their society. It's protecting their future generations," Tsai said.

Since the outbreak started in mid-October, more than 60 people have died, mostly children, and more than 4,000 were infected, health officials said.

residents in the independent nation of Samoa were immunized from the highly contagious virus, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reports.

"You have scores of people dying, and the society is paralyzed," said Honolulu surgeon Paulus Tsai. "Basically life has come to a standstill for the island."

Samoa declared a state of emergency and complete shutdown of government and business operations while vaccination teams searched for residents susceptible to the disease, health officials said.

About 34,000 people were immunized over two days, officials said.

"Of all the efforts to save children around the world, immunization has the most dramatic impact. Everybody came together with their aloha to unite and support Samoa and attack this disease head-on in a way that will make a permanent difference in the lives of the people," Straub Medical Center family physician Dale Glenn said.

The mission was coordinated by medical doctor and Lt Gov Josh Green who worked with Samoan leaders, the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, officials said.

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