

Uterine fibroids and prematurity: a retrospective cohort study

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Objective: The objective of this study was to evaluate the association of fibroid pathology (i.e.: presence of uterine fibroids during pregnancy or history of myomectomy) and preterm birth before 37 weeks of gestation (WG).

Methods: This exposed/unexposed retrospective unicentric cohort study, included all women with monofetal pregnancies delivering after 22 WG in the maternity unit of the Cochin-Port Royal hospital, Paris between January 2011 and September 2015. Exposed women –defined as the women presenting with fibroid pathology- were compared to unexposed women. Crude and adjusted odds ratios reflecting the association between fibroid pathology and preterm birth before 37 WG were assessed through univariate and multivariate logistic regression.

Results: Among the 20,436 women in the cohort, 317 presented with fibroid pathology (161 women with at least one fibroid during pregnancy and 156 women with a history of myomectomy) and 20,119 women were unexposed. The exposition was significantly associated with the risk of prematurity (respectively for un-operated and operated fibroids ORa=3.2 95%CI[2.0 –5.1] and ORa=2.9 95%CI[1.8–4.6]).

Conclusion: Uterine fibroids increase the risk of premature birth even after myomectomy. The unclear physiopathological mechanisms leading to these deleterious outcomes have yet to be studied.

Keywords : uterine fibroid, leiomyoma, preterm labour, pregnancy outcomes

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