

ABSTRACT

Background: Alcohol consumption by pregnant women is overwhelming in Europe and worldwide. The consequences of alcohol use can manifest themselves in the form of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and are so severe and common that increased attention needs to be paid to the issue of alcohol use during pregnancy.

Aims: The aim of the work was to determine the incidence of problem alcohol use in pregnant women who attend a Pregnancy ambulance of The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the First Faculty of Medicine and General University Hospital in Prague and to describe how to perceive alcohol this issue.

Methods: During the months from January to April 2021, the AUDIT questionnaires were collected within the maternity outpatient clinics of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics of the First Medical Faculty of Charles University and the General Hospital in Prague. In January 2021, semi-structured interviews with pregnant women were demonstrated. The research group consisted of 257 pregnant women in the completed 27.-38. week of pregnancy. Semi-structured interviews were demonstrated with 15 randomly selected pregnant women from the research group. The collected data were processed and described using graphs and tables. Data obtained through semi-structured interviews were processed using thematic analyzes.

Results: According to the results of the AUDIT questionnaire, 48 (18,6 %) pregnant women were found to have an alcohol problem during pregnancy from sample of 257 pregnant women. Abstinence in pregnancy is reported by 111 (43,2 %) pregnant women and another 143 pregnant women (56,8 %) report alcohol use in a certain amount. The attitude and opinions of 15 pregnant women on the topic of alcohol use during pregnancy were described in a semi-structured interview environment. Pregnant women often report abstinence during pregnancy or use alcohol only occasionally. Pregnant women mostly state that there is no safe dose of alcohol during pregnancy. Conversely, some pregnant women report certain doses of alcohol during pregnancy as safe. The most common source of information is alcohol consumption during pregnancy was for women was the internet and loved ones around them. Pregnant women also mentioned the discrepancy between the advice of their loved ones and the converting recommendation to abstain during pregnancy. The interview expressed the opinion that the company condemns a pregnant woman who used alcohol. In another case, the opinion was expressed that our society is tolerant of the use of certain doses of alcohol during pregnancy.

Conclusion: The work provided knowledge of the incidence of problem use in pregnant women and the views of pregnant women on the topic of alcohol use in pregnancy.

Keywords: alcohol, pregnancy, fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS), fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD)