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Investigating Pregnancy Outcomes in Women with Bacterial Vaginosis: a Systematic Review

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Bacterial vaginosis is caused by the imbalance of the natural bacterial flora of the vagina, which is asymptomatic in half of the cases. However, its characteristic symptoms include itching and burning, and increased vaginal secretions in gray color, which is the most common vaginitis in reproductive age. This review article was conducted to investigate pregnancy outcomes in women suffering from this disease.

Search Strategy: This systematic review involved searching the Google Scholar and Elmnet search engines, as well as Scientific information databases, such as Magiran, PubMed, Elsevier, and Science Direct, from 2000 to 2024. The keywords used in the search included “pregnancy outcome”, “bacterial vaginosis”, “Parturition”, “pregnant women”. Of all the articles identified, 31 were selected for analysis. Articles that were unavailable or irrelevant were excluded from the study, resulting in a final evaluation of 17 articles for review.

Results: According to studies, bacterial vaginosis can significantly impact pregnancy. The associated consequences include premature birth, premature rupture of fetal membranes, spontaneous abortion, low birth weight, respiratory distress syndrome, amniotic fluid infection, infections at the cesarean wound site, and an increased need for neonatal intensive care unit admission compared to healthy women.

Conclusion and Discussion: Gynecologists and midwives should educate women about the symptoms of bacterial vaginosis. By increasing awareness of this condition and encouraging necessary examinations, women can receive timely diagnosis and treatment, thereby preventing the development of adverse effects associated with the disease.

Keywords: Bacterial vaginosis, Parturition, Pregnancy outcome, Pregnant women

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