INCIDENTAL PREGNANCY RATES OF PERIOPERATIVE FEMALES AGED 10-21 AT TEXAS CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL BASED ON EMR REVIEW: OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

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Background: Teenage pregnancy represents 13%-23% of total pregnancies in the United States (1). Most hospital admissions in this age group are for surgical reasons (2). Because of the potential teratogenic and abortive effects of drugs used during the perioperative period, it is important to know the pregnancy status of these patients (2). Preoperative pregnancy testing plays a key role ensuring both the patient and physician have the opportunity to make a more informed decision regarding surgical planning. Our goal was to measure the number of TCH encounters in the months preceding a (+) pregnancy test for surgical patients as a quality improvement project in order to identify missed counseling opportunities.

Materials/Methods: De-identified data extracted for this study included female patients ages 10-21 at Texas Children’s Hospital from January 2010- July 2020, which pregnancy test was positive, the diagnosis codes within the last year, the number of clinic encounters, and which clinic administered the pregnancy tests. The data was then separated into surgical and medical subspecialties. There were 18 OB/GYN clinics excluded from the data request.

Results: There were 771 (+) positive pregnancy tests recorded in TCH EMR from 1/1/2010 through 7/1/2020 for females ages 10-21. Two were perioperative patients based on ordering clinic. There were 111 patients with positive pregnancy tests without clinic association, which may include missed perioperative females. The two perioperative females had 18 in-person visits within 180 days of their positive pregnancy test.

Conclusions: There were two recorded incidental positive pregnancy tests in perioperative females aged 10-21 from 1/1/2010 through 7/1/2020. These patients had multiple visits with TCH providers prior to their pregnancy, thus offering an opportunity for contraceptive counseling. Sexual history should be obtained and contraception counseling should be offered at each encounter to prevent incidental pregnancies in teenage females.

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