

Re: Maternal transmission of SARS-COV-2 to the neonate, and possible routes for such transmission: A systematic review and critical analysis. (First comment on BJOG-20-0883.R1)

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Sir,

We read with interests the article by Kate F Walker and colleagues, entitled "Maternal transmission of SARS-COV-2 to the neonate, and possible routes for such transmission: A systematic review and critical analysis". In the article, the authors systematically analyzed the mode of delivery on the infection rates of COVID-19 in the newborn. Despite the limitations, especially the retrospective nature of studies examined, this study provided important information about the selection of mode of delivery of women with COVID-19. It suggests that neonatal infection rates are not different after Caesarean birth or vaginal delivery. However, the severity of the COVID-19 infection of the mothers was not considered. Clinically, pregnant women with the more severe COVID-19 infection appear to prefer delivery by Caesarean delivery rather than vaginal birth. Therefore, it is possible that any beneficial effects of Caesarean birth in reducing transmission of COVID-19 might not be apparent because the severity of COVID-19 infection was greater in these women. This selective bias would weaken the conclusions of current studies. We feel that prospective evaluation the safety of mode of delivery with COVID-19 is required.

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