

PSYCHOTIC SYMPTOMS AMONG WOMEN UNDERGOING IN-VITRO FERTILIZATION TECHNIQUE (FIVET) FOR INFERTILITY: A NARRATIVE REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE ON PREVALENCE AND MEASURES OF ASSOCIATION.

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INTRODUCTION

Depression and other emotional distress are well documented in infertile women, but little is known about the relationship between infertility and psychotic symptoms. In clinical practice, it is not rare to find accounts of psychotic symptoms in women undergoing in-vitro fertilization (IVF) techniques for infertility. The aim of this study is to review published papers about the prevalence and the possible association of psychotic symptoms and/or disorders and IVF techniques in infertile women.

METHODS

PubMed database was searched with the following key words:

"Fertilization in Vitro"[Mesh] AND (psych* OR mental dis* OR delusion* OR hallucinat*).

The database was searched on May, 18th, 2019.

The search was limited to papers

- written in English
- published in the last 10 years
- enrolling female patients.

Commentary, case-reports, editorials, and reviews were excluded.

PRISMA guidelines were followed to report results.

RESULTS

The search provided 72 results. 4 reviews, 1 commentary, 3 case reports and 29 off-topic studies were excluded.

One paper focused on body perception, 1 focused on alexithymia and 32 papers focused on stress, anxiety-depression and maladjustment disorders were excluded because did not reported data on psychotic symptoms or disorders.

Only one study explicitly focused on post-partum psychosis (PPP), showing data about 10.412 women from the Swedish IVF register. According to this study, there were no differences in PPP prevalence between the IVF and the control group (0.3% versus 0.4%) in the chi-square analysis ($p=0.169$) or in the multiple logistic regression analyses ($OR=1.178$, $p=0.646$;). A history of any psychiatric disorder significantly increased the risk of PPP.

CONCLUSIONS

The topic is scarcely explored, and more studies are needed. A history of mental illness seems to be the major risk factor for PPP. If an association will be found, this should be taken into consideration, for example offering assessment of psychiatric personal history to infertile women undergoing IVF.

References:

Vikstrom, J., Sydsjo, G., Hammar, M., Bladh, M., Josefsson A. (2017). Risk of postnatal depression or suicide after in vitro fertilisation treatment: A nationwide case-control study. *BJOG* 124 (3): 435-442.