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Effect of Illicit Drug use on the Fetus and Newborn: Case Report

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Introduction

Drug use, especially crack and cocaine, is a growing public health problem worldwide. Studies show that about 90% of women who use crack are in the reproductive period. Thus, in addition to all the losses already faced by the use of these illicit drugs, such as family suffering, living with crime, imminent risk of death, exposure to communicable diseases, there are also those related to gestation and to the concept, as illustrated in the following case.

Case Report

Mother, 32 years old, 4th gestation, reporting use of crack and cocaine throughout gestational period. Male child born cesarean due to premature placental abruption, 30 weeks gestational age, birth weight 1675 grams, APGAR 9/9. He evolved with respiratory discomfort, requiring invasive mechanical ventilation and exogenous surfactant. With a few hours of life he started with a persistent cardiac arrhythmia (ventricular extra systoles) without electrolytic or echocardiographic abnormalities, and was reversed with the use of amiodarone [1-4].

Discussion

The use of drugs during pregnancy causes negative consequences such as spontaneous abortion, intrauterine growth restriction, fetal

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malformations, placental abruption, and other neurobehavioral, respiratory and cardiac disorders that could be avoided with preventive measures. Psychosocial, economic, political, multidisciplinary team prepared to raise awareness about the probable damages of these illicit substances on the fetus is essential to minimize this great public health problem. Still, further studies are needed to address the issue in question.

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