

## Pelvic girdle pain in primiparous women in Ireland before and in early pregnancy

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## Background - Pregnancy-related Pelvic Girdle Pain (PPGP)

#### Terminology

 PPGP = Pain experienced between the posterior iliac crest and the gluteal fold, particularly near the SIJ. Pain may radiate in the posterior thigh and can also occur with or separately in the pubic symphysis. (Vleeming et al. 2008)



# Background - Pregnancy-related Pelvic Girdle Pain (PPGP)



- <u>Hormonal</u> relaxin?
  (Aldabe et al. 2012a)
- <u>Biomechanical</u> shift centre of gravity, increased load, pelvic instability (Aldabe et al. 2012b)

#### Diagnosis

- History
- Physical examination
- Exclude lumbar causes
- Rarely: lab tests/imaging
- No diagnostic criteria but Guidelines
- European guidelines (Vleeming et al. 2008)
- ➢ HSE National guidelines (2012)





## Aim/objectives

#### <u>Aim</u>

To identify the prevalence of, and changes in, pelvic girdle pain experienced by primiparous women before and during pregnancy in one maternity hospital in Ireland.

#### **Objectives**

- 1. To identify the prevalence of PGP pre-pregnancy and in early pregnancy
- 2. To compare self-reported PPGP versus PPGP reported in hospital records
- 3. To identify potential predictive factors for PPGP

### Methodology



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MAMMI (Maternal health And Maternal Morbidity in Ireland) study Longitudinal cohort study Ethical approval of university and site hospital

#### **Data Collection**

- Self-completed surveys
- Data collection from maternity records
  - 831 participants

#### <u>Data Analysis</u>

- Descriptive statistics
- Chi-square statistics

#### Data Collection – Self-reported Pain





### Participant characteristics



| Age                    | Percentage (n = 846) |  |
|------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Up to 24               | 9.3                  |  |
| 25-29                  | 23.5                 |  |
| 30-34                  | 41.8                 |  |
| 35-39                  | 21.9                 |  |
| Over 40                | 3.4                  |  |
| Country of birth       | Percentage (n = 838) |  |
| Ireland                | 63.2                 |  |
| Other European country | 27                   |  |
| Non-European country   | 9.8                  |  |

#### Prevalence



| Self-reported pain          | Year Before Pregnancy<br>(n=831) | In early pregnancy<br>(=831) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Pelvic Girdle               | 38%                              | 58.5%                        |
| Anterior Pelvic Girdle      | 1.4%                             | 10.5%                        |
| Posterior Pelvic Girdle     | 37.7%                            | 55.6%                        |
| Ant & Post Pelvic<br>Girdle | 1%                               | 7.5%                         |

#### Prevalence – MAMMI study vs previous literature



| Self-reported pain<br>(MAMMI study) | In early pregnancy (=831) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pelvic Girdle                       | 58.5%                     |
| Anterior Pelvic Girdle              | 10.5%                     |
| Posterior Pelvic Girdle             | 55.6%                     |
| Ant & Post Pelvic Girdle            | 7.5%                      |

- Point prevalence PPGP of approximately 20% (Vleeming et al. 2008)
- **4-week prevalence** of PPGP 64.7% in a cohort of 1158 Spanish women between 31-38 weeks pregnant (Kovacs et al. 2012)
- Prevalence self-reported PPGP (without LBP) of 40% (Al-Sayegh et al. 2012)



## Self-reported PPGP versus Recorded PPGP

| Self-Reported PPGP (n = 831) | Recorded PPGP (n = 563) |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 58.5%                        | 4.4%                    |

## Chi-square analysis



| Independent Variables      | Pearson Chi-Square | Significance |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| History of PPGP            | 155.557            | 0.000        |
| History of back pain       | 53.703             | 0.000        |
| History of headaches       | 6.889              | 0.009        |
| History of depression      | 7.543              | 0.006        |
| History of anxiety         | 2.581              | 1.08         |
| History of eating disorder | 1.736              | 0.188        |
| History of back surgery    | 0.000              | 1.000        |
| History of back injury     | 4.045              | 0.044        |
| History of period pains    | 5.388              | 0.020        |
| BMI (3 categories)         | 3.353              | 0.187        |

## Factors associated with PPGP



Factors associated with self-reported PPGP (MAMMI study)

**History of PPGP** 

History of back pain

History of headaches

History of depression

History of back injury

History of period pains

#### Associated factors in literature:

- (Albert et al. 2006): **history of LBP**, trauma to back/pelvis, higher stress levels, multiparae, job dissatisfaction
- (Kovacs et al. 2012): depression, a higher body mass index, and a more advanced stage of pregnancy
- (Bakker et al. 2013) examining psychological determinants: perceived stress and recent psychological distress, but not anxiety or coping
- (Mogren 2005): Physical activity before pregnancy reduces risk



#### Implications for practice

PPGP is a common under-reported complaint

Ask women about whether they experience any pain Clinicians should be aware of risk factors

### Limitations



- The pre-pregnancy data were collected retrospectively
- No physical examination; only self-reported PPGP
  Possible overlap with lumbar pain



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- Rotunda Hospital
- Health Research Board



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