

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

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ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	Neonatal outcomes and indirect consequences following maternal SARS-CoV-2 infection in pregnancy: A systematic review
AUTHORS	Sturrock, Sarah; Ali, Shohaib; Gale, Chris; Battersby, Cheryl; Le Doare, Kirsty

VERSION 1 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	Jaime-Dawn Twanow Nationwide Children's Hospital, Neurology
REVIEW RETURNED	08-Aug-2022

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>I think your article offers good insight into the impact of COVID on neonatal outcomes, and is strengthened by the large sample sizes you have included with your broad review. The piece is extremely well written, and I had only minor suggestions for editing. I feel that the discussion of your findings would be strengthened by including some baseline population statistics as this would provide additional perspective.</p> <p>I have included my suggestions for changes in a tracked Adobe document. - please let me know if there are issues with the file. This is very nicely done, and is timely and informative work.</p> <p>The reviewer provided a marked copy with additional comments. Please contact the publisher for full details.</p>
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REVIEWER	Xiangming Meng Wuxi Huishan District People's Hospital
REVIEW RETURNED	16-Aug-2022

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>This systematic review focuses on neonatal outcomes and indirect consequences following maternal SARS-CoV-2 infection in pregnancy. This is a well-written review that has some value in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. I congratulate the authors for producing this work, on which they have clearly worked very hard. I have some recommendations to improve this review.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The authors searched MEDLINE, Embase, Global Health, WHOLIS, and LILACS databases for this review. web of Science and Scopus are commonly available databases, why were these databases not searched? Please explain.2. In Figure 1, the box at the top left should list how many papers were retrieved from each of the MEDLINE, Embase, Global Health, WHOLIS, and LILACS databases, rather than just the total number of papers.3. In paragraph 4 of the discussion section, "Two small studies reported an association between maternal SARS-CoV-2 infection
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	<p>and offspring hearing impairment in healthy newborns without any specific risk factors for hearing impairment [28][29], further supporting the importance of following up children exposed to SARSCoV-2 in pregnancy.”</p> <p>Whether SARS-CoV-2 positive pregnant women affect the hearing of their newborns is controversial, according to a newly published systematic review on SARS-CoV-2 positive pregnant women affect the hearing of their newborns. Several case-control studies confirmed that newborns delivered to pregnant mothers infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus during pregnancy had an increased risk of developing hearing loss. While several studies with no control group found no increased risk of hearing loss.</p> <p>It is recommended to add relevant information in this section.</p> <p>Reference : Can SARS-CoV-2 positive pregnant women affect the hearing of their newborns: A systematic review. Am J Otolaryngol. 2022 Jun 2;43(5):103523. doi: 10.1016/j.amjoto.2022.103523.4</p> <p>4. Appendix 2: Results table</p> <p>This complete and legible table contains the records of 204 studies. Unfortunately, no citations are provided for these investigations. It is advised that the sources of these studies be given so that the reader may readily return to the appropriate literature for additional reading of the original literature.</p>
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Reviewer: 1

Dr. Jaime-Dawn Twanow, Nationwide Children's Hospital

Comments to the Author:

I think your article offers good insight into the impact of COVID on neonatal outcomes, and is strengthened by the large sample sizes you have included with your broad review. The piece is extremely well written, and I had only minor suggestions for editing. I feel that the discussion of your findings would be strengthened by including some baseline population statistics as this would provide additional perspective.

I have included my suggestions for changes in a tracked Adobe document. - please let me know if there are issues with the file. This is very nicely done, and is timely and informative work.

The manuscript has been amended with reference to Dr Twanow’s comments.

Reviewer: 2

Dr. Xiangming Meng, Wuxi Huishan District People's Hospital

Comments to the Author:

This systematic review focuses on neonatal outcomes and indirect consequences following maternal SARS-CoV-2 infection in pregnancy. This is a well-written review that has some value in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. I congratulate the authors for producing this work, on which they have clearly worked very hard. I have some recommendations to improve this review.

1. The authors searched MEDLINE, Embase, Global Health, WHOLIS, and LILACS databases for this review. web of Science and Scopus are commonly available databases, why were these databases not searched? Please explain.

On scoping the available evidence, search results found from Web of Science and Scopus were similar to those found from MEDLINE and Embase. We decided that it would be better to include more global databases such as Global Health, WHOLIS and LILACS to ensure that studies from lower-income countries would be included.

2. In Figure 1, the box at the top left should list how many papers were retrieved from each of the MEDLINE, Embase, Global Health, WHOLIS, and LILACS databases, rather than just the total number of papers.

The PRISMA flow chart figure has been updated.

3. In paragraph 4 of the discussion section," Two small studies reported an association between maternal SARS-CoV-2 infection and offspring hearing impairment in healthy newborns without any specific risk factors for hearing impairment [28][29], further supporting the importance of following up children exposed to SARSCoV-2 in pregnancy."
Whether SARS-CoV-2 positive pregnant women affect the hearing of their newborns is controversial, according to a newly published systematic review on SARS-CoV-2 positive pregnant women affect the hearing of their newborns. Several case-control studies confirmed that newborns delivered to pregnant mothers infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus during pregnancy had an increased risk of developing hearing loss. While several studies with no control group found no increased risk of hearing loss.

It is recommended to add relevant information in this section.

Reference : Can SARS-CoV-2 positive pregnant women affect the hearing of their newborns: A systematic review. Am J Otolaryngol. 2022 Jun 2;43(5):103523. doi: 10.1016/j.amjoto.2022.103523.4

Reference to this review has been added to indicate the ongoing controversy in relation to this area.

4. Appendix 2: Results table

This complete and legible table contains the records of 204 studies. Unfortunately, no citations are provided for these investigations. It is advised that the sources of these studies be given so that the reader may readily return to the appropriate literature for additional reading of the original literature.

A DOI number for each study has been provided in the results table to allow for easy reference to the appropriate papers, as opposed to including in the reference list due to the number of studies included.