

FREQUENCY OF REPORTING OF CONCOMITANT SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN PATIENTS WHO ABUSE COCAINE IN PREGNANCY

Erica Hayes, Christian Brothers University Biology Dept.

Jay Bringman, M.D., Risa Ramsey, Ph.D., and Robert Egerman, M.D, Maternal and Fetal Research, University of Tennessee

Lu Kao, R.N. Regional Medical Center.

Lucinda Delmar, M.D. University of Tennessee OB/GYN, Memphis, Tennessee

We conducted a retrospective analysis of 100 hundred pregnant patients whose infants, upon delivery, had a positive urine drug screen for cocaine. We sought to determine the incidence of reporting concomitant drug use in this group of individuals. It has been reported by the National Institute on Drug abuse that women who admit to using cocaine admitted to using other drugs as well. Drugs frequently used were alcohol and tobacco.

The purpose of this study is not only to determine the occurrence of associated drug use, but also to treat cocaine users appropriately. This is essential because cocaine causes patients to present with similar symptoms that present as a result of toxemia due to pregnancy. For example, tachycardia, fever and high blood pressure are all congruent complications of pregnancy and cocaine abuse alike. Because of these comparable symptoms, cocaine toxicology most often goes undiagnosed and thus untreated or perhaps mistreated. From this study we anticipate obtaining a more efficient way to screen for cocaine toxicology.

Supported by: The Maternal and Fetal Health department at the University of Tennessee at Memphis