# PLACENTAL CONTRIBUTION TO OBSTETRIC HEMORRHAGE

#### Ware Branch, MD

Medical Director of Women and Newborn Clinical Program for the Urban Central Region of Intermountain Healthcare Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City









# Third Stage of Labor

Sudden decrease in uterine size and area of implantation site

Formation of retroplacental hematoma

**Uterine contraction** 

**Secondary clot formation** 





- Placental abruption
- Placenta previa
- Placenta accreta (spectrum)



- Uterine bleeding after 20 weeks complicates 5-10% of pregnancies; of these:
  - -Abruption ~ 15%
  - **Previa ~ 10%**
  - –Accreta ~?
  - Other (local / focal bleeding)



- Bleeding at the decidual-placental interface (maternal vessels in decidua basalis) → premature separation
- Occurs in about 0.5-1% of pregnancies
- Adverse outcomes:
  - Fetus/neonate: FGR, LBW, PTB, HIE, perinatal death
  - Mother: DIC, transfusion, hysterectomy, renal failure, death



- Estimated to be the cause of ~10% of preterm births and ~10% of perinatal deaths
- Maternal mortality
  - In about about 1% of serious abruption cases
  - Attributable cause of 7 maternal deaths in UK, 2000-2005



#### **Risk Factors for Abruption**

Demographic or Behavioral

- Maternal age <20 or >34
- Smoking
- Cocaine use

Historical

Prior abruption

•Prior ischemic placental disease

•Prior cesarean

Current Medical •Hypertensive disease •Vaginal bleeding in

pregnancy

•PPROM

- •Trauma
- •FGR
- Chorioamnionitis



- Etiopathogenesis poorly understood
  - ? Poor utero-placental vascularization ischemic placental disease
  - Provide a series of the series
    - Genetic factors
  - -Vasconstrictive factors



- Management
  - Lesser degrees of abruption hospitalization until resolution or worsening
  - More serious cases delivery and maternal resuscitation









- Placenta overlying cervical internal os
  - Formerly "complete," "partial," and "marginal"
  - Now "previa" and "low lying"
- Complicates ~0.5% of pregnancies
  - More frequent in relation to increased rate of cesareans
  - Also more frequent in relation to prior pregnancy losses and parity



	OR for Placental Previa
Prior Cesareans	
1	4.5 (3.6-5.5)
2	7.4 (7.1-7.7)
3	6.5 (3.6-11.6)
4	44.9 (13.5-149.5)
Prior Pregnancy Losses	
1	1.6 (1.3-1.8)
2	2.3 (1.8-3.0)
3	3.7 (2.7-5.2)
Parity	
1	<b>1.9 (1.5-2.5)</b>
2	2.2 (1.7-3.0)
3	2.6 (1.8-3.8)

Obstet Gynecol Survey. 2012; 667:503



- Associated adverse outcomes attributable to maternal bleeding
  - 10-fold increased risk of antepartum bleeding
  - Adverse fetal-neonatal outcomes
    - Mostly related to prematurity: ~15-20% rate of delivery <34 weeks; 2-4 fold increase PNM rate
    - ? Fetal growth restriction



- Mechanism of hemorrhage
  - -Antepartum
    - Placental separation from decidua
      - -GA-related
      - -Contractions, cx changes, alterations in lower uterine segment



- Mechanism of hemorrhage
  - -Antepartum (occurs in 50% of previa cases)
    - Related to parity
    - May be more frequent with short cx, placental lacunae, other US features



- Mechanism of hemorrhage
  - Postpartum
    - Poorly contractile lower uterine segment



- Previa is fairly frequent finding on midtrimester US
  - ->85% resolve due to "placental migration"
    - Concept of trophotropism



- Antepartum Management
  - Periodic US reassessment of placental location
  - If antepartum hemorrhage:
    - Hospitalization (vs outpatient care)
      - Recurrence in ~50% of cases
      - -? Number of episodes
      - Routine hospitalization at 34 weeks?
    - Antenatal steroids



- Antepartum Management
  - Controversial / NEB / not recommended
    - Bed rest / pelvic rest
    - Cx length measurements
    - Tocolytic agents
    - Cerclage



- Delivery Management
  - Delivery at 36-37 weeks (Sem Perinatol. 2011; 35:249)
  - Cesarean delivery
    - For previa or low-lying placenta within 1-2 cm of cx os



- Delivery Management
  - Use of prediction schemes for emergency delivery
    - Prior cesarean
    - Antepartum bleeding (number of episodes)
    - Need for transfusion



Variable	Delivery When Scheduled (N=121)	Emergency Delivery (N=93)	OR (95% CI)
Cesarean	13 (10.7%)	27 (29%)	4.6 (1.8-11)
1 bleed (vs no bleed)	38 (31.4%)	27 (29.3%)	7.5 (2.5-23)
2 bleeds (vs no bleed)	16 (13.2%)	23 (25%)	14 (4.3-47)
<u>&gt;</u> 3 bleeds (vs no bleed)	13 (10.7%)	37 (40.2%)	27 (8.3-90)
Transfusion	3 (2.5%)	22 (23.9%)	6.6 (1.8-24)

Am J Perinatol. 2016; 33:1407–1414



- Intraoperative Management
  - Persistent LUS bleeding
    - Uterotonic agents
    - LUS compression sutures or B-Lynch sutures
    - Intrauterine balloon tamponade
    - Local hemostatic agents





## Placenta Accreta Definitions

- Placenta that is abnormally ("morbidly") adherent to the uterus
  - Increta: Invades the myometrium
  - Percreta: Invades the serosa
     or adjacent organs (<10%)</li>
- Accreta: All of the above



Oyalese and Smulian. Obstet Gynecol. 2006; 102:927



Placenta Accreta Pathophysiology

 Absence or deficiency of Nitabuch's layer of the decidua

- Failure to reconstitute the endometriumdecidua basalis after insult

- Histology: trophoblast (usually) invades myometrium without intervening decidua
- Placenta does not separate: bleeding



## Placenta Accreta Incidence

- 1960s: 1 in 30,000 deliveries
- 1985 1994: 1 in 2,510 deliveries
- 1982 2002: 1 in 533 deliveries
- 2000 2010: 1 in 333 deliveries!

Miller, et al. AJOG. 1997; 177:210

Wu, et al. AJOG. 2005; 192:1458

Pub Committee SFMFM; Belfort, Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2010; 430-8



## Placenta Accreta Risk Factors



- Cesarean delivery

Ρ	
Α	
R	
1	
Т	
Υ	

# Ŷ

# Methods

- Prospective observational cohort
- MFMU
- 19 Academic medical centers
- 4 years (1999 2002)
- Daily ascertainment of CD
- Trained study nurses
- 378,168 births / 57,068 CDs
- No labor 30,132 CDs

Silver, et al. Ob Gyn. 2006; 107:1226



## **Placenta Accreta**

Number of Cesareans	N	Accreta
1	6,195	15 (0.2%)
2	15,805	49 (0.3%)
3	6,326	36 (0.6%)
4	1,475	31 (2.1%)
5	260	6 (2.3%)
6 or more	89	6 (6.7%)

Silver, et al. Ob Gyn. 2006; 107:1226



## **Placenta Accreta**

Number of Cesareans	Previa	Accreta
1	397	13 (3.3%)
2	212	23 (11%)
3	72	29 (40%)
4	33	20 (61%)
5	6	4 (67%)
6 or more	3	2 (67%)

Silver, et al. Ob Gyn. 2006; 107:1226



Placenta Accreta Clinical Outcomes (76 cases)

- Maternal ICU admission: 18 (26%)
- Blood transfusion: 56 (82%)
- $\geq$  4 Unit blood transfusion: 27 (40%)
- Coagulopathy: 20 (29%)
- Ureteral injury: 3 (4%)
- Infections: 18 (26%)
- Reoperation: 6 (9%)



### **Placenta Accreta** C-Hyst: Morbid Business

Composite

18-51%

#### **Reported outcomes w Accreta Spectrum**

Transfusion of 4+ U PRBC	39-79%
Coagulopathy	17-29%
Ureteral injury	1-8%
Bowel Injury	1%
ICU Admission	15-30%
Venous thromboembolism	2-10%
Abdomino-pelvic infection	5-8%
Reoperation	2-13%
Fistula	2-3%
Death	0.5%
Loss of uterus	100%



# Placenta Accreta Diagnosis

- Antepartum
  - Clinical
  - Ultrasound
  - Magnetic Resonance Imaging
  - Biomarkers
- Postpartum
  - Histology



# **Placenta Accreta**

- Placenta previa
- Multiple placental lacunae
   80-93% sensitive
- Loss of retroplacental hypoechoic zone
  - 7-52% sensitive
  - 21% false positive rate
- Decreased retroplacental myometrial thickness

– <1 mm

- Abnormal bladder interface
- Placenta beyond uterine serosa





Placenta Accreta Ultrasound Diagnosis

- In patients at risk for accreta and combining multiple criteria:
  - Decent sensitivity and specificity
  - Fair PPV
  - Pretty good NPV
- But it can't tell me whether or not to attempt placental removal!!



Placenta Accreta MRI Diagnosis

- Best MRI signs: T2 hypointense placental bands, a focally interrupted myometrial border, infiltration of the pelvic organs (duh), and tenting of the bladder
- Accuracy probably similar to ultrasound
- May be useful with posterior accreta
- Expensive and less available
- But it can't tell me whether or not to attempt placental removal!!



## Placenta Accreta Management What to Do Depends Upon the Case

- 4 prior cesareans; major (complete/central) placenta previa; imaging findings c/w accreta
- 3 prior cesareans; major placenta previa; imaging findings show percreta into broad ligament

#### **CURRENT MANAGEMENT:**

Appropriate counseling of patient Scheduled C-hyst with C-hyst team Type and crossed for major hemorrhage 4-5 hours in OR expected Planned ICU admission post op



## Placenta Accreta Management What to Do Depends Upon the Case

- 2 prior cesareans; anterior, low-lying placenta with several imaging findings c/w small area of accreta (but not percreta)
- 1 prior cesarean; major placenta previa; imaging findings c/w accreta (but not percreta)



Placenta Accreta Management Controversies

- Pre-op ureteral stent placement
- Internal iliac / uterine artery ligation
- Internal iliac balloon placement / occlusion
- Lower aorta balloon placement / occlusion



## Placenta Accreta Conservative Management

- Preserve fertility and avoid hysterectomy
- Placenta left in situ
- Embolization of internal iliac vessels

### Placenta Accreta Conservative Management

With Placenta Accreta, Including Placenta Percreta

Characteristic	Placenta Accreta Including Percret (n=167)
Hysterotomy (n=139)	
Fundal	71 (51.1)
Low transverse	68(48.9)
Placenta left in situ	167 (100)
Partially	99 (59.3)
Entirely	68 (40.7)
Preoperative ureteric stent	6 (3.6)
placement	
Uterotonic administration	167 (100)
Primary postpartum hemorrhage	86 (51.5)
No additional uterine devascularization	58 (34.7)
procedure	
Additional uterine devascularization procedure	109 (65.3)
Pelvic arterial embolization*	62(37.1)
Vessel ligation*	45(26.9)
Stepwise uterine devascularization	15 (9.0)
Hypogastric artery ligation	23 (13.8)
Stepwise uterine devascularization	7(4.2)
and hypogastric artery ligation	
Uterine compression suture*	16 (9.6)
Balloon catheter occlusion	0
Methotrexate administration	21(12.6)

Data are n (%).

The total number of additional uterine devascularization procedures exceeds the number of patients because some patients had more than one such procedure.

Multicenter, retrospective study of conservative management of placenta accreta in 167 women in 25 French university hospitals 1993-2007

Median number of cases 3 (1-46)

Sentilhes, et al. *Obstetrics & Gynecology.* 2010; 115: 526-534.



# **Placenta Accreta**

#### **Conservative Management**

Characteristic	Number of Cases (%)
Success of conservative management	131 (78.4%)
Primary hysterectomy	18 (10.8%)
Delayed hysterectomy	18 (10.8%)
Transfusion	70 (41.9%)
More than 5 units	25 (15%)
ICU care	43 (25.7%)
Sepsis	7 (4.2%)
Infection	47 (28.1%)
VTE	3 (1.8%)
Any severe maternal morbidity or death	10 (6.0%)

Sentilhes, et al. Obstet Gynecol. 2010; 115: 526-534



- Success rates of ~80% reported
  - But at least 20% of cases require hysterectomy
  - Higher rates (40%) in some case series
- Return of menses in ~60% of successful cases
- Postembolization syndrome
  - Nausea, malaise fever for 2-7 days



# (1) Suspected Accreta Randomization In Situ Management

# (2) Suspected Accreta w/ serosal invasion Interval C-hyst

# Ŷ

# **Interventions (RCT 1)**

#### In situ Expectant

Laparotomy
 Classical C/S
 Placenta left in place
 Postop UAE
 Postop Abx
 Inpatient observation
 Outpatient observation

+/- interval resection

#### **Planned C-Hyst**

1.Laparotomy
 2.Classical C/S
 3.Placenta left in place
 4.Hysterectomy

+/- uterotonics +/- ureteral stents +/- art. occlusion/ligation +/- postop UAE



# Interventions (RCT 2)

#### **Interval C-Hyst**

1. Laparotomy 2. Classical C/S **3. Placenta left in place** 4. Postop UAE 5. Postop Abx 6. Inpatient observation 7. Interval hysterectomy, at 2-5 days

#### **Planned C-Hyst**

1.Laparotomy
 2.Classical C/S
 3.Placenta left in place
 4.Hysterectomy

+/- uterotonics +/- ureteral stents +/- art. occlusion/ligation +/- postop UAE







- a priori risk stratification → intervention(s)
   → improved outcomes?
- Is bleeding from abruption qualitatively different?
  - Partial concealment / large surface area
  - Marked increase in local activating factors, e.g., placental TF, VEGF



- Better emergency and intraoperative management?
  - Dedicated obstetric hemorrhage team and resources
  - Massive transfusion protocol
  - Focused intra-crisis laboratory methodology
    - Thromboelastography / -ometry
  - Targeted blood product utilization



• What influences or mediates placental location and invasiveness?