

### **Pregnant Patients' Attitudes Regarding COVID-19**

#### **Introduction**

SARS-CoV-2 is a novel coronavirus of which little is known regarding its effect in pregnancy. We aimed to assess the knowledge and attitudes of pregnant women on COVID-19 while living in a high prevalence area during the nation's first surge in New York.

#### **Methods**

This was a cross-sectional, survey study of pregnant women presenting for prenatal care between April and June 2020 in Brooklyn, NY. The protocol was reviewed and exempt by IRB. The survey consisted of multiple choice questions evaluating demographics, knowledge and attitudes on COVID-19. Descriptive statistics were performed.

#### **Results**

Of the 60 pregnant women approached, 58 (96.7%) completed the survey. Twenty-seven (46.6%) participants felt pregnant women were at higher risk of getting infected and 20 (35.1%) believed that pregnant women were at higher risk of ICU admission. Forty-five (78.9%) women would stop going to work if someone was diagnosed in their workplace. Only six (10.6%) women would receive a vaccine against SARS-CoV-2 and two (3.5%) would take an experimental medication with unknown risk to their fetus. All women endorsed changed behaviors including self-quarantine, increased frequency of handwashing, and decreased use of public transport. Women reported greater concern regarding COVID-19 compared to other illnesses such as flu and HIV.

#### **Conclusion/Implications**

All patients adopted risk reducing behaviors to avoid contracting SARS-CoV-2 infection. Despite greater concern of COVID-19 compared to other diseases, few pregnant women reported that they would receive a vaccine or an experimental drug against SARS-CoV-2. Knowledge of patients' perceptions and attitudes can aid in provider counselling and understanding of behaviors.