

## Novel Corona Virus and Vertical Transmission

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Corona Virus COVID 19 infection, its transmission and prevention measures are well circulated In different media like TV news, Newspaper Headlines, Whatsapp, Twitter, Instagram etc. but all news covered only for the Adult.

There is one aspect lacking --- that is - about Pregnant and lactating mothers. It's surely a question among mothers those who are pregnant and those who are feeding babies. When the whole World is Panic about the rapid spread of deadly viral infection, is not it natural to discuss and create awareness among those vulnerable groups.

This Novel virus not looking Poor or rich, newborn or old, male or female, all are alike or risk for getting Infection. The symptoms and signs are same even during pregnancy or lactation as like non pregnant state. The preventive measures also as similar to other cases like, maintaining hygiene, social distancing, avoid social gatherings and crowd places, avoid travel to different countries as possible etc.

Very specific to need to know regarding this infection during pregnancy is first- whether the infection transmit to unborn foetus?

To answer this question- There is no evidence yet transmission of the virus from mother to foetus intrauterine period and also during the time of delivery.

To support this view the Author like to quote the study published in the standard Journal-*The Lancet*. Presented that Huijun Chen., *et al.* [1] conducted a Retrospective study on "Clinical characteristics and Intrauterine vertical transmission potential of COVID-19 among Nine pregnant women in Wuhan, China" reported that they have tested amniotic fluid from mother and cord blood, neonatal throat swab samples from the newborn babies to detect the presence of COVID-19 but the reports were found Negative for the presence of Virus. Not only that study report also showed that none of the babies develop birth asphyxia and all their APGAR Score is 8 - 9/at 1 minute and 9 - 10/ at 5 minutes also no maternal and Neonatal Death was noticed.

The second most important part is whether mothers infected with COVID-19, Feed their babies?

Regarding breast milk- it's a natural God's gift to the newborn. Nothing can replace. Colostrum- the first milk of the mother is the first Immunization too. The normal Phenomenon regarding breastfeeding is once a mother infected with any organism, the own body immune system develops WBC cells to fight against the organism/Infection and when the mother is feeding the baby, this WBC cells pass from mother to baby through breast milk and the baby is protected too.

The same is in case of COVID-19 too. This infection also could not be transmitted through breast milk to the babies. To support this I can quote the same above study findings where the authors tested breast milk samples for SARS-CoV-2 from six mothers, those who were infected with COVID-19 and all samples tested negative for the virus [2-7].

## Conclusion

There is no evidence of vertical transmission of Infection from mother to baby either during intrauterine life nor after birth through breastfeeding. Hence mothers need to be aware this basic information's but it's better to practice preventive measures not to get Infection as a general Precaution for all.

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