

Is intrapartum fever associated with ST-waveform changes of the fetal electrocardiogram? A retrospective cohort study.

Becker J, van Rijswijk J, Versteijnen B, Evers A, van den Akker E, van Beek E, Bolte A, Rijnders R, Mol B, Moons K, Porath M, Drogtop A, Schuitemaker N, Willekes C, Westerhuis M, Visser G, Kwee A.

Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University Medical Centre Utrecht, the Netherlands.

OBJECTIVE: To investigate the association between maternal intrapartum fever and ST-waveform changes of the fetal electrocardiogram.

DESIGN: Retrospective cohort study.

SETTING: Three academic and six non-academic teaching hospitals in the Netherlands.

POPULATION: Labouring women with a high-risk singleton pregnancy in cephalic position beyond 36 weeks of gestation.

METHODS: We studied 142 women with fever ($\geq 38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$) during labour and 141 women with normal temperature who had been included in two previous studies. In both groups, we counted the number and type of ST-events and classified them as significant (intervention needed) or not significant, based on STAN[®] clinical guidelines.

MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES: Number and type of ST-events.

RESULTS: Both univariable and multivariable regression analysis showed no association between the presence of maternal intrapartum fever and the number or type of ST-events.

CONCLUSIONS: Maternal intrapartum fever is not associated with ST-segment changes of the fetal electrocardiogram. Interpretation of ST-changes in labouring women with fever should therefore not differ from other situations.