

RESULTS:

During the study, a total of 1753 cases of ectopic pregnancies were recorded. Among them, 20 patients diagnosed with CSP were included in the study.

The mean age was 33.5 years old ± 4.7 . The mean gravidity was 4.5(± 1.6) and the mean parity was 2.9(± 1.5). The mean number of previous cesarean deliveries reported was 2.7(± 1.3). Five subjects (25 %) reported undergoing at least one abortion, of which two patients (10%) were treated by dilatation and curettage (DC). The baseline characteristics are reported in **table 1**.

CSP was diagnosed in twelve cases (60%) during an early ultrasonographic examination for isolated amenorrhea. Six patients (30%) presented with amenorrhea associated with vaginal bleeding, one patient (5%) with isolated vaginal bleeding and one patient (5%) with lower abdominal pain coupled with amenorrhea.

The mean gestational age at diagnosis was 8 weeks (± 2 weeks). At the time of admission, 95 percent of the patients had normal vital signs. One patient (5%), with circulatory collapse, was admitted to the emergency room. Abdominal examination was normal in 95 % of the subjects, one patient (5%) had pelvic tenderness at initial abdominal exam. The gynecological examination showed mild vaginal bleeding in six cases (30%).

The mean β HCG serum level at admission was 52352.4 milliunits/mL (5910 milliunits/mL to 151326 milliunits/mL).

The mean hemoglobin levels at admission were 11.8 g/dL (± 1.5 g/dL). Eight patients (40 %) had anemia at the initial blood count.

The CSP diagnosis was made in all patients using the ultrasonography criteria stated above (**Table 2**).

In terms of management strategies, 40% of patients underwent systemic MTX injection laparotomy, 55% underwent UAE associated with DC, and 5% were managed with systemic MTX associated with UAE and DC (Fig1).

The main complications reported after treatment were uterine rupture (5 %), circulatory collapse (5%) and incomplete uterine rupture (15 %). A transfusion was needed in two cases (10 %).

The mean duration of hospital stay was 13 days (5 - 37 days). The mean time for serum β HCG levels' resolution was 43 days (15 – 117 days). Half of the patients presented with oligomenorrhea, and no new pregnancies were reported.

Analytical statistics did not show statistical significance between the two groups of study with respect to epidemiological and clinical characteristics. Myometrial thickness on ultrasound examination was more important in group 1 ($p=0.06$).

Serum β HCG levels decreased by 4.4 % compared to initial levels 7th day after Methotrexate injection versus 42.7 % compared to initial levels at day 1 following UAE and DC ($p=0.006$). Hospital stay duration was shorter in group 2 but with no statistical significance ($p= 0.31$). Complications were more frequently observed in group 2 with no significant difference ($p=0.61$).

Characteristics and outcomes of both management strategies used in our study are compared in **tables 3 and 4**.

Table 1: Baseline characteristics.

Baseline characteristics		N	%
Age (years)	< 35	3	15
	30-34	7	35
	≥ 35	10	50
Social background	Low	1	5
	Medium	19	95
Gesity	≤ 2	2	10
	3-4	8	40
	≥ 5	10	50
Parity	Pauciparous (≤4)	16	80
	Multiparous (>4)	4	20
Previous CD	< 2	4	20
	≥ 2	16	80

Table 2: Ultrasonographic findings

Ultra sonographic findings		Number (n)	Percentage (%)
Maximum diameter of the GS (mm)	10-19 mm	9	45
	20-29 mm	4	20
	30-39 mm	5	25
	40-50 mm	2	10
Myometrial Thickness (mm)	< 3 mm	7	35
	3-4 mm	7	35
	> 4 mm	6	30
Presence of an embryo		10	50
Foetal heart beat		7	35
Free fluid in the pouch of Douglas		1	5
Type-« on the scar »		13	65
Type « in the niche »		7	35

Table 3: Comparison of patients' characteristics

	Group 1	Group 2	p
	Mean(SD)	Mean (SD)	
Parity	3.4 (1.6)	2.6 (1.3)	0.25*
Number of CD	3.1 (1.4)	2.4 (1.2)	0.23*
Prior abortion by	0.13 (0.3)	0.33 (0.6)	0.47*
Gestational age (weeks)	6.7 (1.3)	8.5 (2.1)	0.05*
Serum β HCG levels (mUI/ml)	47015.7 (48438.5)	55910.2 (48604.4)	0.28
GS (mm)	20.7 (12.4)	26.5 (10.4)	0.22*
Myometrial thickness (mm)	4.1 (0.8)	3.1 (1.4)	0.06*
Presence of an embryo	3 (37.5)	7 (58.3)	0.65**
Fetal heart beat	2 (25)	5 (41.7)	0.64**

Table 4 : Comparison of patients' outcomes.

		Group 1	Group 2	p
		Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	
Hospital stay (days)		15.4 (9.5)	11.6 (5.3)	0.31*
Serum β HCG levels resolution time(days)		61.6 (30.3)	30.7 (8.9)	0.006*
Complications	Incomplete uterine rupture	0 (0)	3 (25)	0.24**
	Uterine rupture	1 (12.5)	0 (0)	0.42**
	Transfusion	1 (12.5)	1 (8.3)	0.65**
	Oligo menorrhea	3 (37.5)	7 (58.3)	0.65**