Pregnancy characteristics and outcomes among women at risk for disability from health conditions identified in medical claims.

Clements, K. M., Mitra, M., Zhang, J., & Iezzoni, L. I.  

**Abstract:** Women with disabilities are at risk for poor birth outcomes. Little is known about specific potentially disabling health conditions and their effects on pregnancies. Using hospital claims, we identified women at risk for disability and evaluated the relationship between disability risk and demographic characteristics, pregnancy risks, and infant and maternal outcomes. 2006–2009 Massachusetts Pregnancy to Early Life Longitudinal data system linked birth certificate and hospital claims one year pre-pregnancy through delivery. Access Risk Classification System categorized ICD-9-CM/CPT codes into disability risk groups (no/limited vs. medium/high). Generalized estimating equations evaluated the association between disability risk and infant and maternal outcomes. Of 221,867 women, 14,701 (6.6%) were at medium/high risk of disability. Health conditions were classified as: circulatory (23%), musculoskeletal (10%), nervous system/sensory (13%), other physical (19%), two or more physical (5%), mental illness (24%), and comorbid mental/physical (6%). Women at risk of disability were more likely than others to have socioeconomic and pregnancy risks, and adverse infant and maternal outcomes. Socioeconomic and risk profile varied by health condition category. Adjusted risk ratios for preterm birth ranged from 1.2 (95% CI 1.0–1.4) for women with nervous system/sensory diagnoses to 1.6 (95% CI 1.4–1.8) for women with two or more physical diagnoses; risk ratios for maternal delivery hospitalization > 5 days ranged from 1.5 (95% CI 1.2–1.9) for women with musculoskeletal diagnoses to 3.0 (95% CI 2.5–3.6) for women with comorbid mental/physical diagnoses. Disability risk identified through claims is associated with poor infant and maternal outcomes. Risk profiles vary by underlying health condition.