

1. STRESZCZENIE W JĘZYKU ANGIELSKIM

INTRODUCTION: The COVID-19 pandemic has caused fear and anxiety around the world. Pregnant women are particularly susceptible to anxiety and stress, and the COVID-19 pandemic has certainly contributed to an increase in anxiety symptoms in this group. In addition, this group of women is particularly vulnerable, both to contracting COVID-19 and to post-infection complications.

AIM: Assessment of the prevalence of COVID-19 anxiety symptoms among pregnant women in Poland.

MATERIAL AND METHODS: The study presented in Article 1 included 173 pregnant women at various stages of pregnancy. The study used a proprietary survey questionnaire and the following standardised research scales: State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI), Short Health Anxiety Inventory (SHAI) and General Anxiety Disorder-7 (GAD-7). The second study (Article 2) involved 595 women, including: 288 pregnant women (study group) and 307 women of reproductive age (control group). The study used the author's survey questionnaire and the following standardised research scales: two fear of COVID-19 scales (The Fear of COVID-19 Scale, FCV-19S and Coronavirus Anxiety Scale, CAS), The Drivers of COVID-19 Vaccination Acceptance Scale (DrVac-COVID-19S) and the Scale to Measure the Perception of SARS-CoV-2 Vaccines Acceptance (The VAC-COVID-19 Scale).

RESULTS: There was a statistically significant difference in STAI-X1 scale scores of women hospitalized during pregnancy. Primiparous women had statistically significant higher SHAI scale scores than multiparous women. Women with higher education also scored higher on the SHAI scale. On the GAD-7 scale, 13.3% of female respondents scored suggestive of a suspected generalised anxiety disorder. Mild anxiety was reported for the CAS scale, while the FCV-19S scale showed a moderate level of anxiety. Both pregnant women and women of childbearing age showed high scores on the scales: VAC-COVID-19 and DrVac-COVID19S. Mean scores on the VAC-COVID-19 scale were 41.44 points in the study group and 44.26 points in the control group, and mean scores on the DrVac-COVID19S scale were 51.25 points in pregnant women and 55.85 points in women of childbearing age.

CONCLUSIONS: Pregnant women generally showed moderate levels of anxiety about COVID-19, which varied depending on the survey tool used.