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| **Recognition of Pathogenic Pathways to Intrauterine Infection: Keys to Identifying Testable Primary Prevention Strategies** |
| **McGregor, JA**1; **Perhach, M**2; **Jones, J**2; **French, JI**3 *1 - University of Colorado Denver. 2 - Group B Strep International. 3 - LA Best Babies Network.* |
| **Introduction** **Background:** Intrauterine infections are the cause of considerable morbidity/mortality. Effective prevention strategies require updated, comprehensive knowledge of pathophysiology.   **Objectives:** Identify and analyze recognized and unrecognized pathways to intrauterine infection.  **Material and Methods** Large updated biologic/medical databases were examined using applicable search terms.  **Results** 1) Complex or not generally recognized pathways to intrauterine infection were identified: a) ascending transport of vaginal/cervical infection due to physiologic uterine activity occurring prior to or during pregnancy; b) “counter current” vascular/lymphatic transport; c) translocation of microbes from gastrointestinal microbiome endangers microflora; d) iatrogenic inoculation of cervico-vaginal microflora by cervical manipulation or instrumentation; e) microecologic shift of predominant vaginal microflora mediated by hygienic practices, change of sexual partner(s)/practices, antimicrobial use, dietary-style microbiome shifts; f) hematologic transport of microbes (e.g., *Listeria* spp., enteroviruses, etc. initiated by systemic exposure/infection; and g) immunosuppression facilitated mechanisms. 2) Testable means to remedy/mitigate these processes were identified and justified.  **Conclusions** 1) Potential pathways to intrauterine infections were identified and illustrated to prompt investigation of new basic and clinical primary prevention research strategies.  2) Seven novel pathophysiological pathways were discovered by “information mining.” |
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