INTRODUCTION
Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) are a neuro-developmental diseases characterized by social-, communication impairments and stereotyped patterns of behaviour. Recent studies suggests that parental age and obstetric conditions are associated with an increased risk of ASD. Although not proven as independent risk factors for ASD, precise assessment of potential confounders scarcely have been investigated.

METHODS: (max 100 words)
The present retrospective cross-sectional study was designed to assess the effect of maternal age, medical conditions, pregnancy outcomes and prenatal drug exposure on the risk of ASD. A total of 43 children with ASD clinically diagnosed with ADI ADOS according to the DSM IV criteria between 2010 and 2012 were recruited. The following data were collected: psychiatric data, results of cognitiv tests, obstetric history direct from mother's medical files including, socio-demographic characteristic, ultrasonographic measurements each trimester of pregnancy and perinatal outcomes. Statistical comparisons of different parameters on the case group (n=43) and the neuropsychiatrically healthy control group (n=182) were assessed.

RESULTS:
The average age of the case and control group were 29.53±5.1 years and 29.67±8.54, respectively. Ultrasonographic parameters (NT:1.35±0.42; CRL:53.64±11.48; thorax: 23.38±7.39; length of humerus: 13.56±7.57; length of femur:13.76±7.1) were in the normal range in both groups. Pre-existing hypertension and diabetes mellitus were more prevalent among the case group than among the healthy women p=0.007; p<0.001. The rate of miscarriages, "per vias naturales" delivery and pre-eclampsia were significantly higher among the case group than among the control group (p=0.001; p=0.023; p=0.021).

However no significant difference between the two groups from the aspects of the low birth weight and caesarean section.

CONCLUSION:
Our results are in accordance with those of previous studies from the aspect of the risk of diabetes mellitus, the elevated risk of miscarriages and caesarean section. In contrast with recent publications, there were significant differences in pre-existing hypertension, preeclampsia between the two groups.