Background

Endometriosis, the presence of endometrial-like tissue outside the uterus, is a disease of the reproductive years. The prevalence of endometriosis is estimated to be around 10-15% of all women of reproductive age.

In literature, very limited and controversial information is available on the outcome of patients with endometriosis.

The aim of our study it's to verify whether endometriosis is associated with an increase in risk of specific obstetric complications.

Methods

The study was conducted in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University Hospital of Florence, Italy.

We evaluated the pregnancy outcome in a cohort of women with endometriosis, histologically confirmed, who attended the Endometriosis centre of our Department.

The control group consisted of women who delivered in our Hospital between 2009 and 2012 without endometriosis.

Results

The study population consisted of 10319 patients, 463 in the case group and 9856 in the control group.

Overall, the number of pregnancies was 744 in the case group, 18984 in the control group.

The frequency of spontaneous miscarriage was similar in the two groups, instead the frequency of ectopic pregnancy was significantly higher in women with endometriosis (p<0.05).

Compared with women without endometriosis, women with endometriosis had higher risks of pre-eclampsia (p=0.0260, OR=0.302 [IC:0.116 - 0.789]), placenta praevia (p<0.0001, OR=0.18 [IC (0.09; 0.34)]) and antepartal bleeding (p<0.0001, OR=0.198 [IC: 0.128 - 0.306]).

No significant differences were observed in the incidence of gestational diabetes, preterm delivery and SGA.

The frequency of delivery by caesarean section was not significantly higher in the group of patients with endometriosis.

Conclusions: endometriosis appears to be a risk factor for ectopic pregnancy, antepartal bleeding, placenta praevia and pre-eclampsia.