

CAUSES OF RESPIRATORY AILMENTS IN PREGNANCY

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During pregnancy, especially during its third trimester, most pregnant women reported respiratory discomfort (dyspnoe), despite the absence of previously coexisting respiratory illnesses. The aim of this study was to determine the reason of these complaints. The study included 24 women examined before and after childbirth. Evaluation of respiratory complaints was made on the basis of the respiratory questionnaire of St George Hospital. The data were correlated with the results of static and dynamic spirometric tests performed before and after childbirth. It was found that pregnancy does not affect the vital capacity (VC). Frequency of perceived symptoms correlated positively with IRV and the ratio IC/VC. Negative correlation was found between the ERV and its derivative ERV/VC. There was no relationship between perceived discomfort and indicators of flow-volume loop. It was found that the extent of perceived problems associated primarily with the reduction of the expiratory reserve (ERV) which can be recorded as the main cause of respiratory discomfort (dyspnoe) during pregnancy.