GENETICS AND GENODERMATOSES

PRENATAL DIAGNOSIS IN DERMATOLOGY - AN OVERVIEW

Sanjana Shivashankar [1] - *Viswanath B K* [2]

Cutis Academy Of Cutaneous Sciences, Dermatology, Bangalore, India [1] - *Jjm Medical College, Davangere, Dermatology, Davangere, India* [2]

Introduction: Prenatal diagnosis to detect the abnormalities in the newborn child is gaining importance since the past three decades. It is offered to the couples who are at the high risk of producing a child with congenital disorder and also when the couple is willing to abort the fetus. In recent years, prenatal diagnosis of congenital diseases associated with severe cutaneous manifestations is gaining popularity for various reasons. Hence it is essential to have a knowledge about the various prenatal diagnostic modalities.

Discussion: Prenatal diagnostic tests can be non invasive like USG, αFP, Triple and Quadruple test and invasive test like amniocentesis, CVS, fetoscopy, fetal skin biopsy. The invasive tests has advantage of diagnosing many severe congenital diseases like neural tube defects, chromosomal abnormalities, autoimmune blistering disorders like EBD, Sjogren – Larsson syndrome and many metabolic disorders. Amniocentesis is considered to be the safest and yields results earlier when compared to other modalities. CVS has the advantage of first trimester detection whereas fetoscopy and fetal skin biopsy have better accuracy but high risk of fetal loss is associated with it. The non invasive method where USG is most commonly used modality has very limited indication and accuracy.

Conclusion: No prenatal diagnostic test has complete safety and accuracy in detecting all congenital disorders but different modalities of prenatal test provides a useful data about certain specific disease and the associated risk factors with it. Hence it is very important to know the modalities of prenatal tests, indication and limitation of each test inorder not to miss any of the high risk congenital disease and also for early decision making by the couple for the better and safest outcome of the pregnancy.