



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

DERMATOLOGICAL VIRAL INFECTIONS IN PREGNANCY AND ITS EFFECT ON THE BABY

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Most of the common viral infections in pregnancy are rash specific and skin rashes are the domains of the dermatologist for clinically confirming the diagnosis. They therefore have a challenging role in treating and advising therapy during the crucial dilemmatic period of pregnancy.

Viral infections in pregnancy are devastating and responsible for the high incidence of abortions, premature births, mental retardations, neonatal blindness and deafness, and other systemic abnormalities besides high mortality rates in the newborn.

In USA about 1,50,000 babies are born every year with birth defects and it appears that 10% of these cases are attributed to infectious diseases.

Rubella (German Measles) probably is the best-known congenital infection that causes birth defect. At present the most common congenital viral infection is cytomegalovirus (CMV), which results in mental retardation, loss of vision and hearing in about 3000-4000 new borns every year in USA. Other important viruses from the dermatologist perspective known to cause malformation in human embryo are Herpes virus, Varicella zoster virus, Parvo virus, syphilitic virus, HIV virus etc.

This paper will summarize the latest information now available for these agents, their effects on the developing fetus and means of preventing and treating the Infections.

