



# Management of Traumatic Brain Injury in Pregnancy: Simultaneous Craniectomy and Cesarean Section Surgeries

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Trauma is one of the main causes of nonpregnancy-related maternal death and it is related with antagonistic fetal outcomes. About 7 to 8% of all pregnancies are affected by trauma.<sup>1</sup> A life-saving neurosurgical mediation to treat raised intracranial pressing factor is decompressive craniectomy. Basic signs are in the administration of severe traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Recently, a study by Choy and Burns<sup>2</sup> shared their experience to successful simultaneous decompressive craniectomy and cesarean section. Simultaneous management of concurrent lesions needs a multidisciplinary approach, optimization of the physiology of the mother and fetus,<sup>4</sup> control of intracranial pressure, and an informed decision whether to deliver the baby first or perform craniotomy first.<sup>2–4</sup> A study showed a case of TBI happening in a term pregnant lady who went through concurrent cesarean delivery and neurosurgery under general anesthesia.<sup>3</sup> However, just to emphasize primary goal in the management of trauma during pregnancy is focused on optimal maternal resuscitation and early fetal assessment.<sup>5</sup> If there is rapid neurological deterioration evacuating the intracranial mass lesion becomes the priority to safeguard both mother as well as fetus,<sup>2</sup> but if there are

signs of fetal distress and the mother is neurologically stable, cesarean section may be given a priority to deliver the baby.<sup>3</sup> Further, if the fetus is stable performing craniotomy first may give an option of the vaginal delivery, of course there should not be any signs of fetal distress.<sup>3,6</sup>

It is always a challenge to simultaneously manage the intracranial pathology and safe management of mother and delivery of the baby and require individualized approach (details regarding type of injury, extent of injury, maternal status, gestational age, and status of fetal well-being).<sup>3,4</sup> A report contributes to decreasing the mortality in women with preeclampsia, given that neurological complications increase mortality rates,<sup>7</sup> even more before 34 weeks of gestation.<sup>8</sup> It is important to highlight that puerperium is a pro-coagulant state and should be carefully surveilled to manage an additional complication in these cases.<sup>9</sup> Despite cesarean section is the standard treatment for preeclampsia, it should be outlined that it increases the risk of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST).<sup>9</sup> There are a couple of cases in the advanced literature observing the utilization of decompressive craniectomy in pregnancy-related CVST; however, in these cases, there was risk factor.<sup>10,11</sup>

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**Conflict of Interest**

None declared.

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