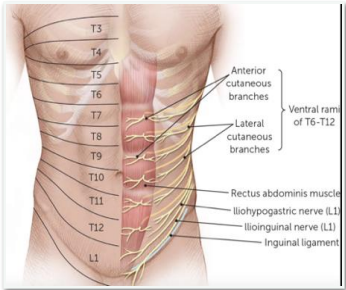


Pregnancy-Related Abdominal Wall Neuropathy (PRAWN). A common and treatable cause of pain in pregnancy. A case series. S.Halpin, I.Camano, E.Twidale

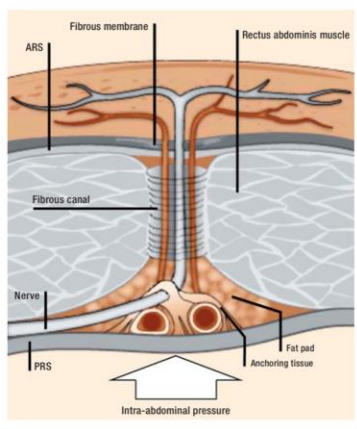
Introduction

- The anterior cutaneous nerves communicate sensation from the skin of the abdomen and pelvis.
- Their neuropathy causes abdominal pain which is simple to diagnose clinically.
- A therapeutic transabdominal plane/transverse abdominus (TAP) local anaesthetic block confirms the diagnosis.
- Pregnancy displaces the abdominal wall ventrally, this can provoke neuropathy.
- While case reports of anterior cutaneous nerve entrapment in pregnancy exist, the prevalence is unknown.
- We introduce PRAWN as a subgroup of Anterior Cutaneous Neuropathy, an under-appreciated cause for antenatal abdominal pain.



Materials & Methods

- A prospective, quality improvement study of pregnant women presenting to Waikato Hospital with abdominal pain.
- Patients were recruited once they were found to have history and exam findings of anterior cutaneous nerve entrapment.
- Visual Analogue Scales for pain were taken before and after TAP blocks with ropivocaine. We also measured patient-reported acceptability of the block via a 5-point Likert Scale.
- We later contacted patients to report on their pain-free intervals



Results

- All women who received blocks had a significant reduction in their pain Visual Analog Scales.
- 9/10 patients had >50% reduction in their pain. The length of effectiveness of the block ranged from 12 hours to 10 days.
- When asked whether they would recommend a repeat block in the same situation again, 8/10 marked 'definitely yes'.
- Apart from the discomfort of the procedure, there were no reported side effects or complications from the blocks.

Patient Details	Gestation	Pain Score Before Block	Pain Score After Block
Patient 1	35/40	6	2
Patient 2	34+5	8	0
Patient 3	35+5	7	0
Patient 4	28	9	1
Patient 5	29	8	0
Patient 6	21 +4	5	1
Patient 7	37	8	2
Patient 8	33+6	9	5
Patient 9	24+5	8	1
Patient 10	27	8	0

Conclusion

- PRAWN is a hitherto unrecognized and under-treated cause of abdominal pain in pregnancy.
- In the four months since the subgroup was proposed, we have collected the largest case series of abdominal wall neuropathy in pregnancy in the existing literature.
- We propose that PRAWN exists, is easily diagnosed and can be treated in the short term with a simple nerve block.
- The ultimate pharmacological treatment to give the longest lasting pain relief is yet to be determined.
- Our long term hypothesis is that the so called 'Round Ligament Pain' is actually PRAWN.

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