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## Association between severities of Striae Gravidarum (SG) and Obstetric Anal Sphincter Injuries (OASIS)

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**Objectives:** To examine the association between the severities of Striae Gravidarum (SG) and Obstetric Anal Sphincter Injuries (OASIS) and to measure the symptoms regarding urinary incontinence, fecal/flatus incontinence, and dyspareunia, at 6 and 12 months postpartum.

**Materials & Methods:** This cohort study was conducted at four university teaching medical centers. Eighty women with OASIS were interviewed and assessed for SG. OASIS was divided into 4 groups: 3A, 3B, 3C and 4. Inclusion criteria were: OASIS diagnosis, non-instrumental vaginal childbirth, birth between 37-42 gestational weeks, singleton newborn, and neonatal birth weight of <4500kg and vertex position. Severity scoring of SG severity scoring, using Atwal's Numerical Scoring System, observed 4 body sites: abdomen, breasts, hips, and buttocks. Total severity score (TSS) for all sites range between 0-24 and categorized: 0-3: no SG (NSG) and 4 and over: SG. The Pelvic Floor Symptom Bother Questionnaire (PFBQ), a validated, structured questionnaire, was used for the 6 and 12-month follow-up assessments, with nine items regarding pelvic floor dysfunction (urinary and bowel impairment uterine prolapse and sexual function).

**Results:** There was no association between SG severity and OASIS (3A, 3B, 3C+4<sup>th</sup>)  $\chi^2 (6)=8.4014$ ;  $P=0.2$ . As there were only 10 women with OASIS of 3C and 4, we re-analyzed the association between SG severity and OASIS severity of 3A and 3B. There was a significant association between SG severity and OASIS severity (3A, 3B)  $\chi^2 (3)=9.306$ ;  $P=0.025$ . Three symptoms had a significant reduction in the bother degree between 6 and 12 months: urinary incontinence ( $p=0.017$ ), flatus incontinence ( $p=0.031$ ) and sexuality ( $p=0.016$ ).

**Conclusions:** The innovation of this research is the association between SG severity and OASIS severity (3A, 3B), added information regarding OASIS risk factors.

### Biography

Ofra Halperin has completed her PhD from Anglia Ruskin University in UK and Postdoctoral studies from Ben-Gurion University, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. She is a Senior Lecturer at Max Stern Academic College of Emek Yezreel in Israel. She has published a book and more than 12 papers in reputed journals and serves as the Chairman of the Research Committee of the Israeli Midwives Association for the last ten years. She is a Midwife and an expert on Women's Health. Her studies have contributed for example, to building a national course for midwives that provided tools to cope with extreme conditions. She is now carrying out a study examining the involvement of hormones (cortisol and sex hormones) in gender differences in cognitive functions as a function of age. Her research interests meet the areas of the subjects she teaches.

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