

Interpregnancy Interval and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes: An Analysis of Successive Pregnancies

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1. Define the concepts of short and long interpregnancy intervals. Outline how you currently counsel pregnant women about the maternal and perinatal risks associated with interpregnancy interval.
2. Discuss the advantages and limitations of the categories used by the authors to define interpregnancy interval. What categorization would you use?
3. Describe the main methodological features that distinguish the study analyses from those of prior studies that have associated short interpregnancy interval with adverse perinatal outcomes.
4. Summarize the key study findings and discuss how these findings are similar to or different from those of the prior studies cited by the authors associating interpregnancy interval with adverse outcomes.
5. Discuss the potential biases that might influence the study results. Discuss whether or not concerns related to each bias listed are adequately addressed. Identify the advantages and limitations of matching each woman to herself.
6. Are the characteristics of the study population (see Table 1 in the article) and the reported incidence rates of study outcomes similar to your own patient population? Why or why not?
7. Discuss whether or not this study has sufficient power to address the key study questions.
8. After reviewing this study will you change your counseling concerning the effects of interpregnancy period on maternal and perinatal outcomes? If yes, how? If no, why not?