

ACG Monograph on GI Diseases and Endoscopy in Pregnancy and Postpartum Period: An Introduction

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The fields of gastroenterology (GI) and hepatology, along with endoscopic practice, have evolved significantly over the past few decades. Similarly, maternal fetal medicine and the care of the pregnant person have become increasingly sophisticated. Gastroenterologists are frequently called on to provide consultative input and/or perform endoscopy during pregnancy. To be able to provide the best possible care to these patients, gastroenterologists need to be aware of (and familiar with) the various nuances and caveats related to the care of pregnant patients presenting with GI and liver disorders.

The American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) first published a monograph on the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders during pregnancy in 1994 (1). A subsequent revised monograph was published in 2007 (2). Given the significant advances in both specialties since then, the ACG, under the auspices of the Women in GI Committee and in collaboration with the ACG Institute, commissioned this newly updated third edition of the monograph. The objective of this compendium is to provide the current best practice approaches and guideline-based recommendations in the treatment of various GI-liver disorders and endoscopy practice in the pregnancy and postpartum period.

It is our hope that this information will help gastroenterologists, obstetricians, and nongastroenterologists understand and manage gastrointestinal problems that can occur or worsen during pregnancy (or are unique to pregnancy). The monograph has been a collaborative effort between various subject matter experts from the fields of gastroenterology, hepatology, obstetrics/gynecology, maternal-fetal medicine, and nutrition. This monograph would not have been possible without the hard work, time, and effort of all the contributing authors. We are truly grateful to each and every colleague for the expertise and knowledge they have shared in helping collate this high-quality, evidence-based set of recommendations for this monograph.

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expertise, input, and guidance in making this monograph a true multidisciplinary effort. Finally, we are very grateful to David Stein, ACG Director of Industry Relations and Philanthropic Programs, for his dedication, perseverance, and stewardship of this project. It would be fair to state that without David's support and oversight, this Herculean task would not have been accomplished.

We hope that the state-of-the-art recommendations in this monograph help guide our readers in providing the highest quality, evidence-based care for their patients with GI disorders during pregnancy and the postpartum period.

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REFERENCES

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2. Pregnancy in Gastrointestinal Disorders: ACG Monograph. Bethesda, MD: American College of Gastroenterology, 2007.

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