

Pregnancy After Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy (LSG): The Effect of Gestational Weight Gain (GWG) On Pregnancy and Perinatal Outcomes

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Abstract

Introduction: We aimed to evaluate the effect of gestational weight gain (GWG) according to Institute of Medicine (IOM) recommendation after laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy (LSG) on maternal and fetal outcomes.

Materials and methods: A retrospective, observational study on the medical charts of pregnant women who had previously undergone LSG between 2012 and 2020. According to IOM, GWG was grouped as insufficient, appropriate, and excessive.

Results: 82 pregnancies were included in this study. GWG was appropriate in 19 of the pregnancies (23%) and was insufficient in 18 (22%) and excessive in 45 (55%) of the cases. The time from operation till conception of excessive group is significantly longer than insufficient and appropriate group ($p_1:0.000$; $p_2:0.029$; $p<0.05$). There was no statistically significant difference between the groups regarding birthweight, gestational age, cesarean deliveries (CD), preterm birth, whether their child was small or large for their gestational age. There was no difference between mean hemoglobin, anemia, low ferritin level and ferritin level at early pregnancy and predelivery between groups ($p<0.05$). There was no significant correlation between the time from operation till conception, birthweight and gestational age. There was no significant correlation between body mass index (BMI) at conception, birthweight and gestational age. There was no significant correlation between early and predelivery ferritin and hemoglobin and birthweight and gestational age. There was no correlation between mean GWG and mean BMI at conception between birthweight in either study group.

Conclusion: The gestational weight gain (GWG) did not impact maternal and neonatal outcomes.

1. Introduction

Obesity during pregnancy increases the frequency of obstetrical complications, including preeclampsia, gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM), miscarriage, macrosomia, cesarean delivery (CD), labor induction, and anesthetic complications. Weight loss prior to pregnancy is critical for improving maternal and fetal health outcomes [1]. When other weight-loss measures have proven unsuccessful, bariatric surgery (BS) is a treatment option for morbidly obese patients and has gained wide acceptance as a safe and effective treatment for obesity [2]. The number of bariatric procedures performed annually is rapidly increasing worldwide and laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy (LSG) has recently emerged as the preferred surgical option [3].

Increasing studies have focused on improving maternal and fetal health outcomes after BS [4, 5], but there are reports of increased risk of being small for their gestational age (SGA) [5, 6] and preterm birth [4–6], the cause of which is not yet clear.

Thus, maternal obesity, gestational weight gain (GWG) or gestational weight loss are all affect fetal growth [7]. Weight gain during pregnancy is an important and could affect fetal growth and correlates to

low birthweight [7]. Insufficient GWG has been shown to be associated with lower fetal growth and birthweight and increase in SGA infants risk and in preterm birth, whereas excessive GWG was associated with higher risks of Large-for-gestational-age (LGA) and macrosomia [7]. Therefore, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) [8] standards for adequate weight gain according to the preconception BMI to reduce the risk of growth abnormalities.

With these recommendations, it is aimed to improve maternal and child health and reduce obstetric complications. GWG has been studied in obese patients and in the general population [9, 10]. But there is no evidence regarding weight gain recommendations in bariatric pregnancies exits [11–13]. Some relatively small studies have examined the subject of the GWG in pregnant patients after BS on maternal and neonatal outcomes; most of them included different time intervals between pregnancy and BS or a mixture of different BS techniques [14–16]. Hence the purpose of this research was to examine the effect of GWG on maternal and neonatal outcomes with a history of LSG.

2. Materials And Methods

A retrospective, observational study was conducted to evaluate the maternal and fetal health outcomes of 142 pregnancies in 113 women who had previously undergone LSG between 2012 and 2020 at the University of Health Sciences, Fatih Sultan Mehmet Training and Research Hospital. We analyzed the charts of women (Fig. 1). If a patient had more than one pregnancy after BS, only the first delivery was included in this study.

GWG was defined as the difference between the final weight and the weight at the conception (kg) and was recorded for each patient as underweight, overweight, or normal, according to the recommended weight gain for their body mass index (BMI) at conception [8]. If pregnant women gained less weight than recommended, they were grouped as insufficient weight gain. If pregnant women gained more weight than recommended, they were grouped as excessive weight gain. And if the pregnant women gained appropriate weight as recommended, they were grouped as appropriate weight gain.

Prematurity was defined as a gestational age of less than 37 weeks at birth. Low birthweight was defined as a newborn weight of less than 2500 g. Macrosomia was defined as a newborn weight of greater than 4000 g. LGA infants were defined as those with a birthweight above the 90th percentile, and SGA as those with a birthweight below the 10th percentile. Percent excess weight loss (%EWL) was calculated by $[(\text{presurgery weight} - \text{weight at last follow-up (kg)}) / (\text{presurgery weight} - \text{ideal weight})] \times 100$ with ideal weight based on body mass index (BMI) of 25 kg/m². Percent total weight loss (%TWL) was calculated by $(\text{presurgery weight} - \text{weight at last follow-up (kg)}) / \text{presurgery weight} \times 100$.

Anemia was defined using the age-and gender-specific World Health Organization criteria (hemoglobin (Hgb) < 11 g/dl during pregnancy) [17] and low ferritin was evaluated according to cutoff values < 30 ng/mL [18]. In addition, hemoglobin, ferritin levels at early pregnancy and at the predelivery and the administration of intravenous (iv)/oral iron supplementation were recorded. Patients had been advised to

take multivitamins for the first postoperative year. At each follow up visit we prescribed specific supplements if a deficiency was detected on laboratory outcomes. We treated iron deficiencies orally or if necessary intravenously.

Statistical analysis

IBM Statistics 22 program (IBM, SPSS, Turkey) was used for statistical analysis. The compliance of the parameters to normal distribution was evaluated by Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro Wilks tests. In the evaluation of the study data, descriptive statistical methods (mean, standard deviation) as well as the Oneway Anova test for the comparison of the parameters showing normal distribution between the groups in the comparison of the quantitative data, and the Tukey HSD test was used to determine the group that caused the difference. Kruskal Wallis test was used for intergroup comparisons of parameters that did not show normal distribution, and Dunn's test was used to determine the group that caused the difference. Student t test was used for the comparison of parameters showing normal distribution between two groups, and Mann Whitney U test was used for the comparison of parameters that did not show normal distribution between two groups. In comparison of qualitative data, Chi-Square test, Fisher's Exact Chi-Square test, Fisher Freeman Halton Test and Continuity (Yates) Correction were used. Pearson's correlation analysis was used to examine the relationships between parameters suitable for normal distribution, and Spearman's rho correlation analysis was used to examine the relationships between parameters not compatible with normal distribution. All p values < 0.05 were considered as statistically significant.

3. Results

GWG was appropriate according to the recommendations in only 23% of the pregnancies ($n = 19$) and was insufficient in 22% ($n = 18$) and excessive in 55% ($n = 45$) of the cases. We compared maternal characteristics, pregnancy, and neonatal outcomes in the three groups.

3.1. Demographic characteristics

Demographic characteristics are reported in Table 1. There is a statistically significant difference between the groups in mean of time from operation till conception ($p < 0.05$). The time from operation till conception of excessive group is significantly longer than insufficient and appropriate group ($p_1:0.000$; $p_2:0.029$; $p < 0.05$). There is no statistically significant difference between the insufficient and appropriate groups in mean of the time from operation till conception ($p > 0.05$).

3.2. Pregnancy course and outcomes

Table 2 shows pregnancy and perinatal outcomes in the groups. There is no statistically significant difference in mean BMI and weight at conception between the groups ($p > 0.05$). There was a significant difference in mean GWG between the groups ($p < 0.05$). The mean of GWG in excessive group was

significantly higher than appropriate and insufficient group ($p_1:0.000$; $p_2:0.000$; $p < 0.05$), whereas there was no significant difference in mean GWG between insufficient and appropriate groups ($p < 0.05$). In the insufficient group, 3 patients lost weight during pregnancy (-10,-14,-30 kg respectively).

There was no difference between mean hemoglobin, anemia, low ferritin level and ferritin level at early pregnancy and predelivery between groups ($p < 0.05$). There was no significant difference between the groups in terms of receiving iron supplement.

There was a significant difference in mode of delivery or type of labor between the groups ($p < 0.05$). Vaginal delivery in sufficient group (50%) is significantly higher than appropriate (15.8%) and excessive group (24.4%) ($p_1:0.026$; $p_2:0.049$; $p < 0.05$). There is no statistically significant difference in mean mode of delivery between appropriate and excessive group ($p > 0.05$). The groups were similar in terms of indications for CD ($p > 0.05$).

In our study, GDM, hypertension, preeclampsia and postpartum hemorrhage were not recorded.

3.3. Neonatal characteristics and outcomes

Neonatal characteristics and outcomes were reported in Table 3. There was no significant difference in the mean gestational age at delivery, birthweight, LGA and SGA births, low birthweight, and preterm delivery between the groups (Table 3).

There was no significant correlation between GWG, baby birth weight and gestational age. There was no significant correlation between the time from operation till conception, birthweight and gestational age. There was no significant correlation between BMI at conception, birthweight and gestational age. There was no significant correlation between early and predelivery ferritin and Hbg and birthweight and gestational age.

4. Discussion

The aim of our study was to evaluate the GWG and compare it according to the IOM recommendation [8]. In addition, the results on maternal and neonatal outcomes were evaluated by classifying GWG as insufficient, appropriate and excess according to IOM.

GWG after BS can vary widely in studies [16, 19, 20]. The average GWG was 12.59 kg in our study, with 3 patients losing weight during pregnancy.

Our findings are line with those of Hammeken et al. [19] showed that GWG in the RYGB group was 11.5 ± 9.9 kg and Ceulemans et al. [16] showed that the average GWG in the malabsorptive and restrictive group was 12.5 kg. Whereas Chagas et al. [20] found a mean GWG of 7.68 kg in pregnant patients who had undergone gastric bypass.

In our study GWG was insufficient for 22%, appropriate for 23% and excessive for 55% of the pregnancies. Our insufficient GWG rate was similar the general population's. The IOM [8] described a 25.5% rate of insufficient GWG in obese and normal BMI populations and 14% rate of insufficient GWG in overweight patients. Lindberg et al. [21] showed that insufficient GWG was between 12.2%-25.5% in overweight and grade II obesity.

Obese patients tend to gain excessive weight gain during pregnancy. However, a higher percentage of patients in the studies presented with obesity, the pregnant women lost weight during gestation despite being overweight and obese.

This can be explained by the fact that a relatively larger proportion of the pregnant women having a surgery-to-conception interval of less than 18 months and there are in the catabolic phase and therefore cannot gain sufficient weight. As the greatest weight loss occurs during the first 6–18 months post-surgery, this period may be physiologically catabolic because of lower food intake or less absorption of nutrients. During the second year after surgery, the rate of weight loss decreases and weight stabilizes [22].

In our study, average prepregnancy BMI was 30.91 ± 6.18 kg/m² and there is no statistically significant difference in mean BMI at conception between the groups. 26.9% of the patients were overweight and 53.6% were obese. The mean time from operation till conception was 27.74 months. The time from operation till conception of excessive group is significantly longer than insufficient and appropriate group. These findings are in line with those of Stentebjerg et al. [15] after RYGB. They found that 62% of the women with BS who became pregnant were still obese at conception and there was no statistically significant difference in mean BMI at conception between the groups. But 43% of their patients had insufficient GWG, which was 22% in our study. Despite being a higher percentage of patients presented with obesity in the study of Stentebjerg et al. [15] the time from operation till conception was shorter than our study. The median time from operation till conception was 14 months which was 27.74 months in our study.

Grandfils et al. [14] found that the women with BS who became pregnant were still obese at conception and women with insufficient GWG had higher pre-pregnancy BMIs when compared to women with normal or excessive GWG. There was no statistically significant difference in mean the median time from operation till conception between the groups. Grandfils et al. [14] showed that GWG was insufficient for 35%, was appropriate 27% and was excessive for 38% of the pregnancies and the mean time from operation till conception of insufficient group was shorter than adapted and excessive groups.

Chagas et al. [20] showed that average prepregnancy BMI was 27.36 ± 3.26 kg/m². 53.3% of the patients were overweight and 23.3% were class I obese. Additionally, they showed that 51.7% of the women presenting insufficient, 34.5% of appropriate, 13.8% of excessive weight gain [20]. The mean time from operation till conception was 17.70 months. This situation can be explained by the lower BMI at conception and the shorter time from operation till conception than our results due to the fact that they gained insufficient weight.

Finally, in a retrospective analysis of 127 pregnancies after malabsorptive and restrictive surgery,

Ceulemans et al. [16] reported that 24% of patients gained insufficient, 20% patients gained appropriate and 56% of patients gained excessive weight. These results are in line with our findings: In our study GWG was insufficient for 22%, appropriate for 23% and excessive for 55% of the pregnancies. Ceulemans et al. [16] found that the women with BS who became pregnant were still obese at conception (37% overweight, 32% obese). Although there was no difference between the groups in terms of BMI and the time from operation till conception, 56% of patients gained excessive weight (80% of these pregnancies occurred 18 months after surgery). And the LRYGB patients with BMI above 32.5 kg m² gained the largest amount of weight during pregnancy [23].

In our study, there was no significant difference in the mean birthweight, LGA and SGA births, low birthweight between the groups. Considering the literature studies according to IOM, there are different results in terms of SGA risk. When et al. [24] found that SGA rate was higher in normal weight women who gained insufficient weight during pregnancy.

Catalano et al. [25] showed that an increase in the incidence of SGA was found in the obese or overweight patient group with a weight gain of less than 5 kg during pregnancy.

In the study that 74% of their patients had RYGB, Ceulemans et al. [16] found that a significant difference in the prevalence of SGA infants with 47% in patients with insufficient group versus 15% and 13% in those with appropriate and excessive group, respectively. Similar to findings, Grandfils et al. [14] suggest that the large proportion of women with insufficient GWG may account for increased rates of SGA after restrictive and malabsorptive surgery (34% in the insufficient group versus 27% in the appropriate and 19% in the excessive group). Stentebjerg et al. [15] showed reductions in birth weight when GWG was insufficient, but no statistical significance was found after RYGB. Berglind et al. [26] showed that birthweight increased with GWG. Ducarme et al. [27] showed a significant reduction in low birthweight and macrosomia after BS despite lower mean GWG compared with controls with obesity.

Because one of the reasons for SGA with BS is insufficient GWG, especially among women with short interval to pregnancy after BS. The pregnant women lost weight during gestation.

In our study, there was no significant difference in the mean gestational age at delivery between the groups. These results are in line with Stentebjerg et al. [15]. Ceulemans et al. [16] showed that the gestational age at delivery was comparable between the 3 GWG groups but more patients with insufficient GWG delivered before 37 weeks. In contrast, Grandfils et al. [14] showed that gestational age was significantly different between groups and it occurred when the GWG was insufficient.

In the general population, preterm delivery has been associated with insufficient GWG, regardless of BMI at conception [9]. In our study, there was no significant difference in the mean preterm delivery between the groups. Stentebjerg et al. [15] found no difference in the prevalence of preterm deliveries between groups. Grandfils et al. [14] found patients with insufficient GWG to be at an increased risk for preterm

labor, especially compared with those patients with excessive GWG. These results are in line with Ceulemans et al. [16].

Anemia is frequent in fertile women; and during pregnancy, Hbg and hematocrit (Hct) levels decrease physiologically due to hemodilution caused by physiological plasma volume expansion [28]. Patients who undergo both malabsorptive and restrictive procedures are at risk for iron deficiency [29].

Several studies have established a relationship between anemia and SGA and birth low birth weight [30, 31]. There was no difference between mean hemoglobin, anemia, low ferritin level and ferritin level at early pregnancy and predelivery between groups ($p < 0.05$). There was no significant difference between the groups in terms of receiving iron supplement. These results are consistent with Stentebjerg et al. [16].

There was a significant difference in mode of delivery or type of labor between the groups ($p < 0.05$). Vaginal delivery in sufficient group (50%) is significantly higher than appropriate (15.8%) and excessive group (24.4%) whereas CD rate was found to be significantly lower in the groups with insufficient weight gain than the other groups, while the groups were similar in terms of indications for CD. The CD rate in all deliveries in Turkey is high, around 53% [32]. The frequency of cesarean section in pregnant women after BS ranges from 15.4%-61.5% [33]. In our study, the rate of CD was 72% and 44% of it was former CD. Grandfils et al. [15] found that, no significant difference was found between the cesarean rates between the groups that were insufficient, appropriate and excessive weight gain. Stentebjerg et al. [16] showed that, CD with excess weight gain was found to be higher than in other groups, and its detection in the excessive group was explained by the maternal age. And the lowest rate was in the group with appropriate weight gain.

Conclusion

There is no statistically significant relationship between birthweight and early pregnancy and predelivery ferritin and Hb level, interval from surgery to conception, CD and GWG. But GWG is probably affected by the time period between surgery and conception.

Even so, due to the lack of robust evidence, especially in long-term outcomes, practitioners should continue to recommend to delay pregnancy for 12–18 months after surgery, because of a rapid weight loss and lower food intake or less absorption of nutrients and the catabolic phase after their LSG and its specific stressful influence on the organs.

This study had some limitations, due to its retrospective nature-namely the impossibility of evaluating certain nutritional deficits, such as folic acid, magnesium and others and the fact that it was not possible to obtain all the parameters of all the pregnant women and their newborns.

Declarations

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Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest

Data Availability: The data that support this study are available upon request from the 12 corresponding author. The data are not publicly available due to privacy and ethical concerns.

Ethics approval The retrospective, observational study approved by local institutional review board and ethics committee and informed consent for this study was obtained and all the procedures being performed were part of the routine care.

Each author's contribution to paper

Seda Sancak conception and design of the work, analysis and interpretation of data, statistical analysis, overall responsibility

Özgen Çeler acquisition of data and analysis and interpretation of data

Elif Çırak acquisition of data

Nalan Okuroğlu analysis and interpretation of data,

Ali Özdemir revising it critically for important intellectual content, statistical analysis

Nuriye Esen Bulut acquisition of data

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Hasan Altun critical revision of the article

Hüseyin Çiğiltepe acquisition of data

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Tables

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the study population				
	Insufficient (n = 18)	Appropriate (n = 19)	Excessive (n = 45)	p values
Maternal age at conception (years), mean \pm SD	31,28 \pm 5,03	32,63 \pm 4,82	32,40 \pm 5,19	¹ 0,671
Weight before LSG (kg), mean \pm SD	123,75 \pm 13,13	121,05 \pm 17,81	129,80 \pm 15,02	¹ 0,086
Height before LSG (m), mean \pm SD	1,66 \pm 0,07	1,65 \pm 0,08	1,65 \pm 0,05	¹ 0,810
BMI before LSG (kg/m ²), mean \pm SD	44,76 \pm 3,44	44,32 \pm 4,12	47,56 \pm 5,96	¹ 0,033*
Interval from surgery to conception (months) median (IQR)	8 (22,25)	15 (26)	30 (24,5)	² 0,000*
%EWL from operation till conception, mean \pm SD	73,11 \pm 35,47	72,71 \pm 35,88	74,80 \pm 20,33	¹ 0,057
%TWL from operation till conception, mean \pm SD	31,74 \pm 15,31	30,71 \pm 13,67	34,45 \pm 9,11	¹ 0,802
Parity, median (IQR)	1 (1)	0 (1)	0 (1)	² 0,658
¹ Oneway ANOVA Test	² Kruskal Wallis Test			*p < 0.05
BMI, body mass index; %EWL, Percent excess weight loss; %TWL, Percent total weight loss				

Table 2. Pregnancy course and outcomes				
	Insufficient (n = 18)	Appropriate (n = 19)	Excessive (n = 45)	p values
BMI at conception (kg /m ²), mean (SD)	30,57 ± 7,46	30,80 ± 6,91	31,09 ± 5,41	¹ 0,953
Weight at conception (kg), mean (SD)	84,11 ± 19,95	83,63 ± 19,13	84,81 ± 13,83	¹ 0,964
Weight gain during pregnancy (kg), median (IQR)	1 (11)	8 (6,5)	18 (8,5)	² 0,000*
Weight category at conception, n (%)				
Underweight (< 18.5 kg/m ²)	0	0	0	
Normal weight (18.5–24.9 kg/m ²)	5(28%)	5(26%)	6(13%)	
Overweight (25-29.9 kg/m ²)	4(22%)	3(16%)	15(33%)	
Obese (> 30 kg/m ²)	9(50%)	11(58%)	24(54%)	
Maternal weight at delivery (kg), mean ±SD	84,89 ± 14,34	92,84 ± 17,86	103,47 ± 13,90	¹ 0,000*
Maternal VKI (kg/m ²) at delivery, mean ±SD	30,86 ± 5,76	34,16 ± 6,29	37,88 ± 5,19	¹ 0,000*
Anemia (Hb < 11 g/dL), n (%)				
early pregnancy	1 (%8,3)	3 (%21,4)	4 (%12,1)	³ 0,589
predelivery	2 (%22,2)	3 (%21,4)	7 (%22,6)	³ 1,000
Hemoglobin, (g/dL), mean ±SD				
early pregnancy	12,57 ± 0,06	12,21 ± 1,39	12,06 ± 1,22	¹ 0,479
predelivery	11,73 ± 1,05	12,04 ± 1,25	12,11 ± 1,46	¹ 0,766
Ferritin, ng/ml, median (IQR)				
early pregnancy	41,4 (59,3)	16,2 (51,4)	10,2 (24,2)	² 0,118
predelivery	36,0 (51,1)	9,2 (15,7)	11,2 (22,9)	² 0,688

¹Oneway ANOVA Test ²Kruskal Wallis Test ³Fisher Freeman Halton Test ⁴Chi-Square test *p < 0.05

Table 2. Pregnancy course and outcomes				
Ferritin deficiency (< 30 ng/ml), n (%)				
early pregnancy	4 (%40)	7 (%53,8)	21 (%67,7)	⁴ 0,270
predelivery	3 (%50)	10 (%90,9)	17 (%73,9)	³ 0,148
Receiving iron supplement, n (%)	9 (%50)	15 (%78,9)	33 (%73,3)	³ 0,330
Mode of Delivery, n (%)				
Vaginal, n (%)	9 (%50)	3 (%15,8)	11 (%24,4)	⁴ 0,050*
Cesarean deliveries, n (%)	9 (%50)	16 (%84,2)	34 (%75,6)	
Indications for C/S, n (%)				
Maternal request, n (%)	2 (%22,2)	3 (%18,8)	4 (%11,8)	⁴ 0,586
Cephalopelvic disproportion, n (%)	1 (%11,1)	2 (%12,5)	8 (%23,5)	
Low birthweight < 2500 g, n (%)	1 (%11,1)	2 (%12,5)	1 (%2,9)	
Repeat, n (%)	4 (%44,4)	5 (%31,3)	18 (%52,9)	
Preterm delivery, n (%)	1 (%11,1)	3 (%18,8)	1 (%2,9)	
Cord entanglement, n (%)	0 (%0)	1 (%6,3)	2 (%5,9)	
¹ Oneway ANOVA Test ² Kruskal Wallis Test ³ Fisher Freeman Halton Test ⁴ Chi-Square test *p < 0.05				

Table 3. Neonatal characteristics and outcomes				
	Insufficient (n = 18)	Appropriate (n = 19)	Excessive (n = 45)	p values
Gender (F/M)				
Male, n (%)	9 (%50)	10 (%52,6)	30 (%66,7)	¹ 0,367
Female, n (%)	9 (%50)	9 (%47,4)	15 (%33,3)	
Birthweight (gram), n (%)				
Low birthweight < 2500 g, n (%)	4 (%22,2)	4 (%21,1)	7 (%15,6)	² 0,889
Normal birthweight 2500–4000 g, n (%)	14 (%77,8)	15 (%78,9)	37 (%82,2)	
High birthweight > 4000 g, n (%)	0 (%0)	0 (%0)	1 (%2,2)	
SGA, n (%)	4 (%22,2)	4 (%21,1)	5 (%11,1)	³ 0,482
AGA, n (%)	14 (%77,8)	14 (%73,7)	35 (%77,8)	
LGA, n (%)	0 (%0)	1 (%5,3)	5 (%11,1)	
Congenital malformations, n (%)	0 (%0)	1 (%5,3)	0 (%0)	-
Transfer to NICU, n	0	0	0	-
Preterm delivery, n (%)	2 (%11,1)	3 (%15,8)	4 (%8,9)	² 0,725
Still birth, n	0	0	0	-
Gestational age (weeks), mean ±SD	38,16 ± 1,86	37,48 ± 4,03	38,23 ± 1,99	³ 0,563
¹ Chi-Square test ² Fisher Freeman Halton Test ³ Oneway ANOVA Test *p < 0.05				
LGA: Large for gestational age, SGA: Small for gestational age, AGA: Appropriate for gestational age				

Figures

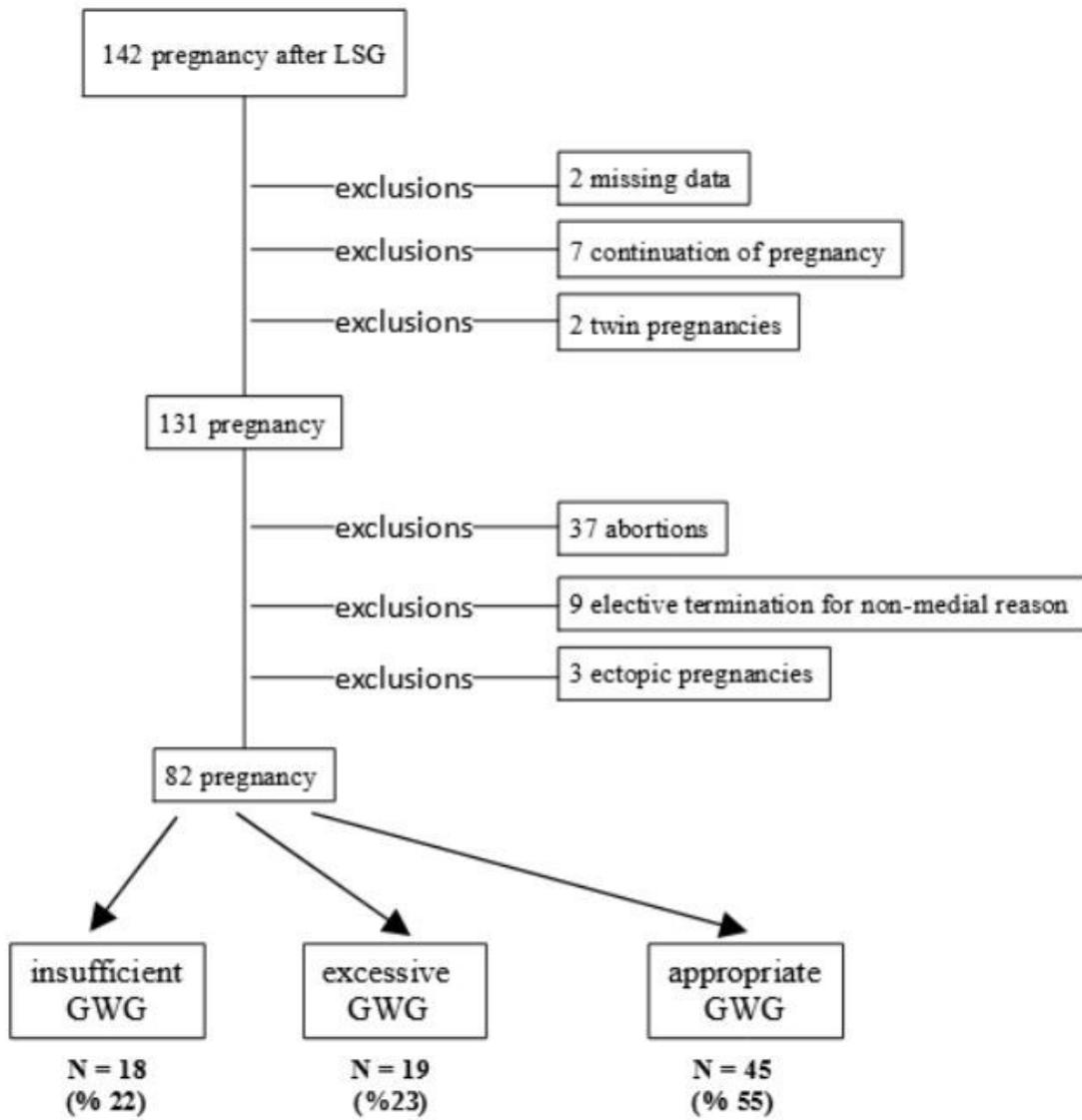


Figure 1

Flowchart of the Study