

THE EFFECT OF MAGNESIUM ON PREGNANT WOMEN

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Abstract

This article comprehensively examines the effect of magnesium on the health of pregnant women. The biological importance of magnesium, the increased demand for it during pregnancy, the clinical signs of magnesium deficiency, and its consequences are analyzed scientifically. The article also discusses magnesium-rich foods, diets, and preventive recommendations. It focuses on maintaining magnesium balance during pregnancy to ensure the health of both the mother and the fetus. The research results show that adequate and timely intake of magnesium plays a crucial role in the healthy progression of pregnancy.

Keywords: Magnesium, pregnancy, micronutrient, muscle spasms, preeclampsia, fetal development, magnesium deficiency, magnesium-rich products, labor risk.

Introduction

Pregnancy is a complex process that brings about a number of physiological changes in the body. During this period, the need for many micro and macroelements increases. Among these, magnesium (Mg) plays an important role. Magnesium is one of the essential elements for the internal activity of cells, the nervous and muscular systems, heart rhythm, and immune system stability. Especially during pregnancy, magnesium deficiency can lead to a number of negative outcomes, such as preterm labor, uterine muscle spasms, high blood pressure, and the risk of preeclampsia. This article analyzes the impact of magnesium on the health of pregnant women, the consequences of magnesium deficiency, the importance of magnesium-rich foods, and supplements.

1. General Biological Functions of Magnesium

Magnesium is the fourth most abundant mineral in the human body, and it participates as a cofactor in over 300 enzymatic reactions. Magnesium plays a crucial role in muscle contraction, nerve impulse transmission, blood pressure regulation, glucose metabolism, and bone tissue formation. It also helps maintain the balance of potassium and calcium within cells. Magnesium deficiency can lead to muscle cramps, irritability, arrhythmias, and weakened bones in the body. Particularly during pregnancy, these conditions may manifest more intensely.

2. The Need for Magnesium During Pregnancy

During pregnancy, the body undergoes metabolic and hormonal changes, leading to an increased demand for magnesium. A typical pregnant woman requires approximately 350–400 mg of



magnesium daily. This requirement is essential for fetal development, placental function, and the normal functioning of uterine muscles. Magnesium helps prevent excessive uterine contractions and reduces the risk of preterm labor. Additionally, it stabilizes blood pressure and prevents preeclampsia.

3. Clinical Manifestations of Magnesium Deficiency in Pregnancy

Magnesium deficiency poses significant health risks for pregnant women. Clinically, the following symptoms may be observed:

- Muscle cramps, especially in the legs at night;
- Irritability, insomnia, and fatigue;
- Increased blood pressure;
- Rapid heart rate or arrhythmias;
- Premature uterine contractions and the risk of preterm labor;
- Placental abruption risk;
- Delayed fetal development.

Research has shown that magnesium deficiency may be directly related to preeclampsia and gestational hypertension. Therefore, it is crucial to monitor magnesium levels during pregnancy and supplement them with diet or supplements when necessary.

4. Magnesium-Rich Sources and Preventive Measures

Magnesium primarily enters the body through food. The following foods are rich in magnesium:

- Nuts (almonds, peanuts);
- Dark leafy vegetables (spinach, chard);
- Whole grains (corn, buckwheat, wheat bran);
- Legumes (chickpeas, beans);
- Avocados, bananas, dark chocolate.

Pregnant women are advised to include magnesium-rich foods in their diet and, if necessary, take magnesium supplements (such as "Magnerot," "Magnelis B6") under medical supervision. Self-administering supplements is not recommended, as excessive magnesium intake can lead to complications, such as diarrhea, vomiting, and heart irregularities.

5. Medical Recommendations and Conclusion

In medical practice, regularly monitoring magnesium levels helps prevent harmful complications in pregnant women. If magnesium deficiency is detected, medications and dietary measures should be applied under medical supervision. Every pregnant woman should be mindful of her general health, especially paying attention to essential micronutrients such as magnesium.

Conclusion

Magnesium is crucial for the proper functioning of the female body during pregnancy, fetal development, and the normal progression of labor. Its deficiency can lead to numerous negative consequences. Consuming magnesium-rich foods and, under medical supervision, taking



additional supplements play a vital role in ensuring a safe and healthy pregnancy. Therefore, maintaining magnesium levels is essential for the health of both the mother and the baby.

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