



THE TRUE RISK OF ADVERSE PREGNANCY OUTCOME FOLLOWING GENETIC AMNIOCENTESIS.

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AIM

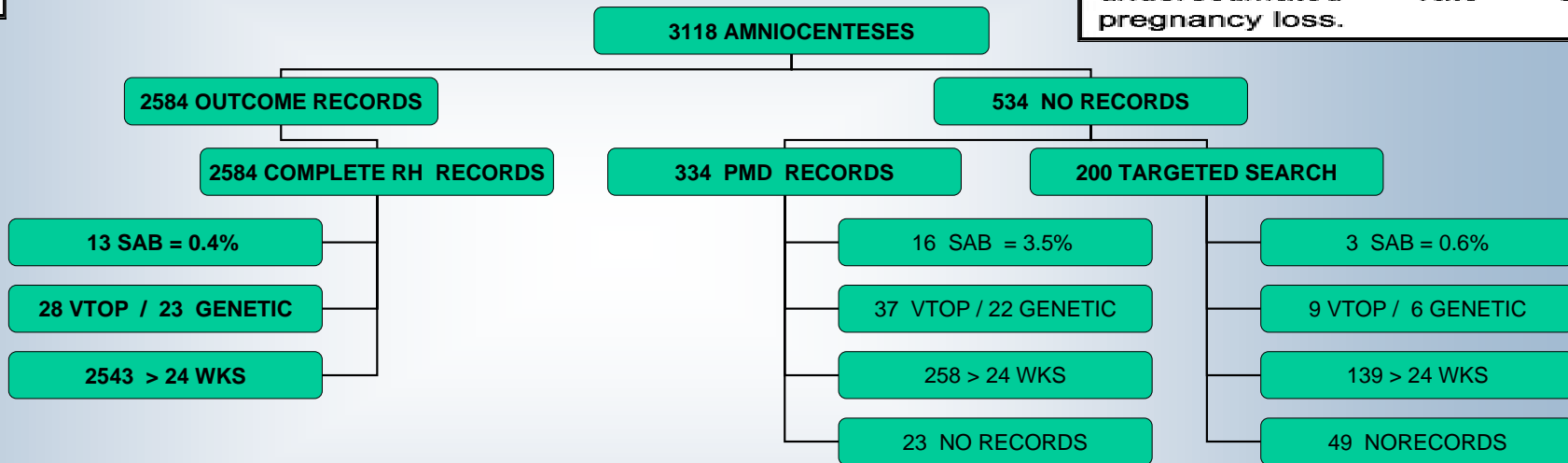
To estimate the error of ascertainment in the assessment of amniocentesis outcome.

MATERIAL & METHODS

3112 consecutive amniocenteses were performed by MFM specialists in a single large urban institute over a 5-year period. All patients were followed up to 24 weeks gestation. Group I with complete pregnancy outcome data in hospital records, genetic, laboratory and ultrasound records was compared with group II comprised of patients with no follow up data. A targeted search for patient pregnancy outcome information was sought from private physician records, industry records and direct interviews with patients. For patients who relocated to another geographic area, "people search" and other public search facilities were used to locate them. True pregnancy loss rates following amniocentesis were compared between the two groups.

CONCLUSION

Large number of patients lost to follow up after amniocentesis may result in underestimated rate of pregnancy loss.



RESULTS

3118 patients underwent genetic amniocentesis between January 2003 and Dec 2007. 2944 (98%) data regarding pregnancy outcome were obtained. In only 72 (2%) no patient information was obtained. Of 2584/2944 (83%) of subjects with complete records readily available 13 (0.4%) had spontaneous pregnancy losses following amniocentesis. Of 462/2944 (15%) of patients with initially no follow up records of pregnancy outcome, the targeted data search identified 19 subjects (4%) with spontaneous pregnancy losses following amniocentesis. In the group requiring targeted data search, the voluntary termination of pregnancy rate was 53/462 (11%) in comparison to the group with complete records, 28/2584 (1%). Finally, every single case missed to follow up changes the pregnancy loss rate by 0.03%.