



Title	Coherent Monitoring and Followup of Pregnant Women with a Heart Disease – A Health Technology Assessment
Agency	DACEHTA, Danish Centre for Evaluation and Health Technology Assessment National Board of Health, PO Box 1881, DK-2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark; Tel: +45 72 22 74 48, Fax: +45 72 22 74 07; www.dacehta.dk
Reference	Medicinsk Teknologivurdering - puljeprojekter 2006; 6(11). ISBN 87-7676-356-0 (online): www.sst.dk/publ/Publ2006/CEMTV/Gravidehjerter/gravidehjerte.pdf

Aim

To assess the Center for Pregnant Women With Heart Disease at Copenhagen University Hospital in Denmark to inform Danish decision makers on the consequences of appropriate distribution of assignments and coordination between sectors and personnel as regards offers to pregnant women with heart disease.

Conclusions and results

The health status of children was found to improve after establishment of the center. Furthermore, the shared care of patients promotes the development of competence among personnel in the center since they gain insight into the different specialty areas. Pregnant women reported greater satisfaction with the level of information after establishment of the center. The center has positive economic consequences for society, the healthcare sector, and the patients.

Both before and after establishment of the center, pregnant women with heart disease have received good and safe monitoring and followup. After establishment of the center, however, the coordination of monitoring and followup of these women has greatly improved. Coordination of patient flow will also make it possible to provide good patient flow as regards pregnant women with heart disease.

The present health technology assessment shows that the purpose of the center has been successfully fulfilled. The center's organizational constellation ensures that pregnant women with heart disease receive the interdisciplinary monitoring and followup necessary to enable optimum management of the mother and the child via safe and coordinated patient flow. The fact that the center is based on changes in the organization and the methods of cooperation illustrates that it is possible, within existing budgets, to improve the quality of treatment compared to the situation prior to the establishment of the center.

The center is a good example of how it is possible to organize, given existing conditions and budgets, to im-

prove cooperation and planning of patient flow without following old traditions and routines.

Methods

The present health technology assessment was designed as a quasiexperimental "before and after" study comparing a prospective cohort of patients in the center with a comparable historic cohort of women with heart disease.