

Dear colleagues,

In today's world, the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) during pregnancy has increased due to the rising age at first pregnancy. The average age at first birth is reported to be between 28.8 and 31.2 years, according to the World Atlas. Pregnancies in the late reproductive years (between the ages of 40 and 50) are more frequently associated with an increased prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity. Furthermore, an increasing number of women with congenital heart disease (CHD) are reaching childbearing age due to advances in treatment modalities. Additionally, while valvular heart diseases are decreasing, they are still significant and continue to impact pregnancy in Türkiye. Cardiomyopathies, though rare, can cause serious cardiovascular complications during pregnancy. Given these evolving conditions, including maternal aging and advancements in the treatment of CVD, we have endeavored to compile and present articles on pregnancy and CVD in this special issue, under the guidance of our esteemed editor, Professor Dr. Dilek Ural, within the Archives of the Turkish Society of Cardiology.

In this dedicated issue, you will find six original articles and an editorial comment. Kayıkçioğlu et al. present a registry named ARTEMIS (A Registry of Peripartum Cardiomyopathy in Türkiye) focused on women with peripartum cardiomyopathy, which outlines baseline characteristics and clinical insights with the participation of 55 cardiologists from 44 centers in Türkiye. An editorial comment on this well-designed registry by Yıldırımürk is also included. Büyük Gezer et al. contribute an article on the role of toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4), which is suggested to contribute to diabetes progression, in relation to angiotensin II in both normal pregnancies and women with gestational diabetes mellitus. Çiçek Yılmaz et al. present a retrospective cohort study evaluating the outcomes of pregnant women with Eisenmenger syndrome (ES); while the sample size is quite small, the study remains valuable as pregnancy is generally contraindicated in patients with ES. The article by Kaya et al. is an observational study on pregnant women referred for cardiology consultations, examining their complaints and diagnoses across different trimesters of pregnancy. Taş et al.'s article focuses on the levels of neuropeptide FF receptor-2 (NPFFR-2) and a serum protein called smoothelin, as well as pregnancy outcomes in women with gestational hypertension. Şaylık et al. present a study on aortic stiffness and epicardial fat thickness, both indicators of cardiovascular risk, in expectant mothers.

Additionally, you will have the opportunity to read three interesting case reports. The case by Atmaca et al. involves valvular heart disease, specifically the management of an expectant mother with a mitral valve ring. Özyeşil et al. presented a case of cyanotic CHD with a completed pregnancy, detailing the management and follow-up of a young pregnant woman with tetralogy of Fallot who had a shunt operation in childhood. The final contribution is a case series by Taçoy et al. The first case is a young pregnant woman with a mechanical valve; the second and third cases involve expectant mothers with complex CHD; and the last case presents a young pregnant woman with a mid-range ejection fraction and a history of cured malignancy.

We hope that this special issue captures your interest and encourages high-volume medical centers to form multidisciplinary teams for pregnant women with heart disease: the pregnancy heart teams, as emphasized in the guidelines of different cardiac societies. The minimum team requirements include a cardiologist, an obstetrician, and an anesthetist, all with expertise in managing high-risk pregnancies in women with heart disease. Additional experts may be involved, depending on the individual situation. Dedicated centers with pregnancy heart teams will also facilitate improved data collection and provide the opportunity to present Turkish data on a global scale.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the authors for their support and to our dedicated reviewers for their valuable contributions.

Editors of the Focus Issue on Pregnancy and Heart Diseases

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**EDITORIAL
EDİTÖRDEN**