

be collected using a sterile container and stored in the laboratory at a temperature that ranges between 4 and -70°C.^o* 7

PREGNANCY Currently, there is a paucity of knowledge and data related to the consequences of COVID-19 during pregnancy.⁴^o*2 However, pregnant women seem to have a high risk of developing severe infection and complications during the recent 2019-nCoV outbreak.⁴^o*? This speculation was based on previous available scientific reports on coronaviruses during pregnancy (SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV) as well as the limited number of COVID-19 cases.^{*1}-4^o Analysing the clinical features and outcomes of 10 newborns (including two sets of twins) in China, whose mothers are confirmed cases of COVID-19, revealed that perinatal infection with 2019-nCoV may lead to adverse outcomes for the neonates, for example, premature labour, respiratory distress, thrombocytopenia with abnormal liver function and even death.^o* It is still unclear whether or not the COVID-19 infection can be transmitted during pregnancy to the foetus through the transplacental route.^o** A recent case series report, which assessed intrauterine vertical transmission of