

**Dengue infection and maternal mortality**  
Infecção por dengue e mortalidade materna

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Dear Sir, the recent publication on dengue infection and maternal mortality is very interesting <sup>1</sup>. Mota et al. <sup>1</sup> (p. 1057) concluded that “*dengue infection during pregnancy can negatively impact its outcome and increase maternal mortality*”. Indeed, this finding is not new and has been reported elsewhere, a good example of which is a study from Sudan <sup>2</sup>. However,

it is interesting to note that study findings are generally similar regardless of the setting and whether the study area is an endemic or non-endemic area for dengue. A recent meta-analysis study showed that “*there is a risk of vertical transmission, but whether maternal dengue infection is a significant risk factor for adverse pregnancy outcomes is inconclusive*” <sup>3</sup> (p. 107). An important point that is generally missing in previous studies is the effects of other confounding conditions on pregnancy outcomes.

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2. Adam I, Jumaa AM, Elbashir HM, Karsany MS. Maternal and perinatal outcomes of dengue in Port Sudan, Eastern Sudan. *Virology* 2010; 7:153.
3. Pouliot SH, Xiong X, Harville E, Paz-Soldan V, Tomashek KM, Breart G, et al. Maternal dengue and pregnancy outcomes: a systematic review. *Obstet Gynecol Surv* 2010; 65:107-18.

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