

## **P-1390 - PRENATAL STRESS AND AFFECTIVE DISORDERS IN A POPULATION BIRTH COHORT**

K.Kleinhaus<sup>1</sup>, S.Harlap<sup>1</sup>, O.Mandil<sup>2</sup>, S.Harlap<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>NYU School of Medicine, New York, NY, USA, <sup>2</sup>Braun Hebrew University, Hadassah School of Public Health and Community Medicine, <sup>3</sup>Herzog Hospital and Hadassah Medical School of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel

**Background:** Maternal psychological stress during pregnancy has been associated with the risk for mood disorders in offspring, although there is no consensus about the influence of the timing of the stress on outcomes. We examined the relationship of prenatal stress at specific times in pregnancy to the incidence of mood disorders in offspring using data from a large birth cohort.

**Methods:** We linked data on 90,079 offspring born in Jerusalem in 1964-76 to Israel's psychiatric registry. We used proportional hazards models to evaluate the link between discharge diagnoses and gestational age during the Arab-Israeli war of June, 1967.

**Results:** Those in their first trimester of fetal development during the war were significantly more likely to be admitted to hospitals for any mood disorders (RR=3.01, 1.68-5.39, p=.0002), and the subgroups of bipolar disorder (2.44; 1.0-5.99; p=.054) and "other" mood disorders (3.61; 1.68-7.80; p=.001). Mood disorders were substantially increased in offspring whose mothers had been in the third month of pregnancy in June, 1967 (5.54, 2.73-11.24, p< .0001).

**Conclusion:** These findings suggest that acute maternal stress in early pregnancy may contribute to the etiology of mood disorders in offspring. They point to the third month of fetal development as a moment of special vulnerability.