

*The British Journal of Psychiatry* 167: 799–805 (1995)

© 1995 The Royal College of Psychiatrists

## Life events and miscarriage

T O'Hare and F Creed

University of Manchester Department of Psychiatry, Manchester Royal Infirmary.

**BACKGROUND:** The aetiology of miscarriage is poorly understood. The aim of this study is to determine whether women admitted to hospital with miscarriage have experienced more psychosocial stress in early pregnancy than women whose pregnancies progress to labour. **METHOD:** Interviews of 48 case-control pairs, matched for known predictors of miscarriage risk, using the Life Events and Difficulties Schedule. **RESULTS:** The miscarriage group were more likely to have experienced a "severe life event" in the three months preceding miscarriage (35% v. 15%;  $P < 0.05$ ); more likely to have been experiencing a "major social difficulty" (31% v. 4%;  $P < 0.002$ ); and more likely to have experienced "life events of severe short-term threat" in the fortnight immediately beforehand (31% v. 4%;  $P < 0.002$ ). Fifty-four per cent of the miscarriage group had experienced at least one of the above indicators of psychosocial stress before miscarrying, compared with 15% of controls ( $P = 0.0001$ ). Other factors significantly associated with miscarriage included childhood maternal separation; non-UK European origin; poorer reported relationships with partners, and fewer social contacts. **CONCLUSION.** Psychosocial stress may be a factor in the aetiology of miscarriage. Alternatively, there may be a common determinant (e.g. personality, lifestyle or environmental) predisposing to both stress and miscarriage.

### This Article

- ▶ [Full Text \(PDF\)](#)
- ▶ [Submit an eLetter](#)
- ▶ [Alert me when this article is cited](#)
- ▶ [Alert me when eLetters are posted](#)
- ▶ [Alert me if a correction is posted](#)

### Services

- ▶ [Email this article to a friend](#)
- ▶ [Similar articles in this journal](#)
- ▶ [Similar articles in PubMed](#)
- ▶ [Alert me to new issues of the journal](#)
- ▶ [Download to citation manager](#)

### Citing Articles

- ▶ [Citing Articles via HighWire](#)
- ▶ [Citing Articles via CrossRef](#)
- ▶ [Citing Articles via Google Scholar](#)
- ▶ [Citing Articles via Scopus](#)

### Google Scholar

- ▶ [Articles by O'Hare, T.](#)
- ▶ [Articles by Creed, F.](#)
- ▶ [Search for Related Content](#)

### PubMed

- ▶ [PubMed Citation](#)
- ▶ [Articles by O'Hare, T.](#)
- ▶ [Articles by Creed, F.](#)

### This article has been cited by other articles:



#### Journal of Interpersonal Violence

▶ HOME

L. A. Morland, G. A. Leskin, C. Rebecca Block, J. C. Campbell, and M. J. Friedman

#### Intimate Partner Violence and Miscarriage: Examination of the Role of Physical and Psychological Abuse and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

*J Interpers Violence*, May 1, 2008; 23(5): 652 – 669.

[\[Abstract\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)



#### BIOLOGY of REPRODUCTION

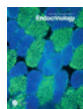
▶ HOME

M. Tometten, S. Blois, A. Kuhlmei, A. Stretz, B. F. Klapp, and P. C. Arck

#### Nerve Growth Factor Translates Stress Response and Subsequent Murine Abortion via Adhesion Molecule-Dependent Pathways

*Biol Reprod*, April 1, 2006; 74(4): 674 – 683.

[\[Abstract\]](#) [\[Full Text\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)



#### Endocrinology

▶ HOME

B. Madhappan, D. Kempuraj, S. Christodoulou, S. Tsapikidis, W. Boucher, V. Karagiannis, A. Athanassiou, and T. C. Theoharides

#### High Levels of Intrauterine Corticotropin-Releasing Hormone, Urocortin, Tryptase, and Interleukin-8 in Spontaneous Abortions

*Endocrinology*, June 1, 2003; 144(6): 2285 – 2290.

[\[Abstract\]](#) [\[Full Text\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)