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Counseling and surveillance of obstetric risks for female childhood, adolescent, and young adult cancer survivors: recommendations from the International Late Effects of Childhood Cancer Guideline Harmonization Group

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90 Condensation: Female cancer survivors have increased risks of premature delivery and low 91 birth weight associated with radiotherapy exposing the uterus, which warrant high-risk 92 pregnancy surveillance. Running head: IGHG recommendations for management of obstetric risks for female CAYA 93 94 survivors 95 AJOG at a glance: 96 Why was this study conducted? National guidelines that identify specific adverse pregnancy 97 outcomes and the clinical characteristics of childhood, adolescent, and young adult (CAYA) 98 99 cancer survivors are scarce and vary in content. What are the key findings? There are increased risks of premature delivery and low birth 100 101 weight associated with radiotherapy exposing the uterus and pregnancy-related 102 cardiomyopathy following treatment with anthracyclines. 103 What does this study add to what is already known? This guideline from the International 104 Late Effects of Childhood Cancer Guideline Harmonization Group identifies specific adverse 105 obstetric related outcomes that are increased in CAYA cancer survivors, to characterize the 106 population that will benefit specifically from an individualized preconception consultation 107 and pregnancy surveillance. 108 **Keywords:** prenatal care; late effects; childhood cancer survivors; fecundity; pregnancy;

109 **ABSTRACT**

110 **Objective:** Female childhood, adolescent, and young adult (CAYA) cancer survivors have an 111 increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes related to their cancer or treatment-112 associated sequelae. Optimal care for CAYA cancer survivors can be facilitated by clinical 113 practice guidelines that identify specific adverse pregnancy outcomes and the clinical 114 characteristics of at-risk subgroups. However, national guidelines are scarce and vary in 115 content. Here, the International Late Effects of Childhood Cancer Guideline Harmonization 116 Group (IGHG) offers recommendations for the counselling and surveillance of obstetric risks 117 of CAYA survivors.

Data sources: A systematic literature search in MEDLINE (through PubMed) to identify all
available evidence published between January 1990 and December 2018.

Study eligibility criteria: Published articles on pregnancy, perinatal or congenital risks in female cancer survivors were screened for eligibility. Study designs with a sample size larger than 40 pregnancies in CAYA cancer survivors (diagnosed before age 25, not pregnant at that time) were eligible.

124 **Study appraisal and synthesis methods:** This guideline from the IGHG systematically 125 appraised the quality of available evidence for adverse obstetric outcomes in CAYA cancer 126 survivors using GRADE methodology, and formulated recommendations to enhance 127 evidence-based obstetric care and preconception counseling of female CAYA cancer 128 survivors.

Results: Healthcare providers should discuss the risk of adverse obstetric outcomes based on cancer treatment exposures with all female CAYA cancer survivors of reproductive age, before conception. Health care providers should be aware that there is no evidence to support an increased risk of giving birth to a child with congenital anomalies (high quality

133 evidence). Survivors treated with radiotherapy to volumes exposing the uterus and their 134 health care providers should be aware of the risk of adverse obstetric outcomes including 135 miscarriage (moderate quality evidence), premature birth (high quality evidence) and low 136 birth weight (high quality evidence); therefore, high risk obstetric surveillance is 137 recommended. Cardiomyopathy surveillance is reasonable prior to pregnancy or in the first trimester for all female survivors treated with anthracyclines and/or chest radiation. 138

Conclusions: Female cancer survivors have increased risks of premature delivery and low 139 birth weight associated with radiotherapy targeting the lower body and thereby exposing 140

the uterus, which warrant high-risk pregnancy surveillance.

142

143 INTRODUCTION

Five year survival rates for childhood, adolescent, and young adult (CAYA) cancer patients now approach 80%¹. Consequently, increasing numbers of CAYA cancer survivors are at risk for adverse physical and psychosocial complications from their cancer and/or its treatment². Reproductive health, and specifically pregnancy and delivery outcomes, represent a critical area for long-term follow-up as having children is an important determinant of quality of life for CAYA cancer survivors³⁻⁷.

Previous research indicates difficulty conceiving or carrying a pregnancy to term, as well as 150 151 excess risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes, among CAYA cancer survivors . For example, the 152 risks of premature birth and postpartum hemorrhage are higher in CAYA cancer survivors compared to women who did not have cancer⁸⁻¹³, and these risks are further increased in 153 survivors treated with abdominopelvic radiotherapy^{9, 11-14}. Evidence-based clinical guidelines 154 155 on surveillance in pregnancy can identify the type and prevalence of specific obstetric and 156 perinatal complications, characterize the clinical features of those at risk, help survivors make informed decisions, facilitate counseling and timely referral to high-risk obstetric care, 157 158 and enable opportunities for interventions to optimize pregnancy outcomes.

159

160 **OBJECTIVE**

Published clinical practice guidelines by North American and European cancer groups reference general obstetric risks ¹⁵⁻¹⁸, but do not comprehensively assess the clinical features of those who could benefit from high-risk obstetric follow-up. Herein, we summarize the results of a systematic review undertaken by the International Late Effects of Childhood Cancer Guideline Harmonization Group (IGHG) and present a critical appraisal of available evidence on obstetric risks in CAYA cancer survivors, synthesizing these findings into

167 evidence-based recommendations for surveillance and counseling of CAYA cancer survivors168 during pregnancy and delivery due to their cancer or cancer treatment.

169

170 **METHODS**

This guideline focuses on facilitating timely identification of CAYA cancer survivors at highrisk of obstetric complications diagnosed with cancer before age 25 years (and not pregnant at that time) who would benefit from preconception counseling and surveillance during pregnancy. Management of obstetric complications is beyond the scope of the present guideline, which should defer to standards established by local/national health systems. Standardized definitions used in this guideline are presented in **Appendix 1**.

The obstetric guideline panel consisted of 33 experts from the United States of America, United Kingdom, Denmark, Germany, France, New Zealand, Australia, Japan and the Netherlands from relevant disciplines, including gynecology, obstetrics, midwifery, endocrinology, pediatric oncology, radiation oncology, epidemiology, and guideline methodology, as well as CAYA survivor/family representatives.

Methods of the IGHG have been described previously¹⁹. For this guideline, concordances and 182 183 discordances across existing survivorship guidelines of the North American Children's Oncology Group (COG)¹⁵, the Dutch Childhood Oncology Group (DCOG)¹⁶, the Scottish 184 Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)¹⁸, and the UK Children's Cancer and Leukaemia 185 Group (UKCCLG)¹⁷ were evaluated. We defined the major outcomes for obstetric problems 186 187 in survivors and congenital problems in offspring (Appendix 1). For all discordances and 188 relevant outcomes, focused clinical questions were formulated to determine whether 189 specific preconception consultation or surveillance was indicated. Four working groups 190 evaluated the following topics: 1) adverse fetal outcomes in pregnancy (such as miscarriage); 191 2) adverse maternal outcomes in pregnancy; 3) delivery outcomes; and 4) congenital192 anomalies of the neonate.

A systematic literature search was performed in MEDLINE (through PubMed) to identify all 193 194 available evidence published between January 1990 and December 2018, using the search 195 terms "childhood cancer", "survivors", "late effects" and "obstetric problems". Details of the 196 full search strategy are included in Appendix 2. All study designs with a sample size larger 197 than 40 pregnancies in female childhood cancer survivors were eligible. To ensure rigorous 198 review of manuscripts by at least two individuals, only studies published in English were 199 selected for analysis. All abstracts were screened by two independent reviewers (ALLFK and 200 one working group member). Disagreements were resolved through consensus. Cross-201 reference checking was performed to identify additional studies overlooked during the initial 202 search. Relevant articles were summarized in one evidence table by two reviewers (ALLFK 203 and one working group member), including a critical appraisal of risks of bias (Appendix 3). 204 The evidence tables were subsequently assembled into summary of findings tables (ALFFK) and revised where necessary (RLM, LCMK). We assessed the quality of the body of evidence 205 206 for each clinical question according to criteria based on Grading of Recommendations Assessment Development and Evaluation (GRADE)²⁰ (Appendix 4). The quality of the total 207 208 body of evidence is graded according to four levels: High $(\oplus \oplus \oplus \oplus)$, further research is 209 unlikely to change the confidence in the estimate of effect; Moderate $(\oplus \oplus \oplus \ominus)$, further 210 research is likely to have an important impact on the confidence in the estimate of effect 211 and may change the estimate; Low $(\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus)$, further research is very likely to have an 212 important impact on the confidence in the estimate of effect and is likely to change the estimate; and Very low $(\bigoplus \ominus \ominus \ominus)$, any estimate of effect is very uncertain. The level of 213 214 evidence decreased in the presence of study limitations (risk of bias in the studies),

inconsistency of results between studies, indirectness of the study populations or outcomes,
or imprecision of the effect estimates. The level of evidence increased if the effect sizes
were large or there was evidence for a dose-response relationship.

218

219 Translating evidence into recommendations

220 Recommendations were drafted considering the level of the evidence, other effects of the 221 expected risks (such as unnecessary medicalization), and the need for flexibility across health care systems ²¹. Terminology employed for radiotherapy and obstetric outcomes can 222 223 be found in Appendix 5. Decisions were made through iterative group discussions, final 224 recommendations represent unanimous consensus. The strength of the recommendations 225 graded according published evidence-based methods (Appendix was to 4). 226 Recommendations were classified into strong or moderate recommendations, and based on high quality evidence, moderate quality evidence or expert opinion^{19, 21, 22}. Pregnancy care-227 228 related recommendations from the IGHG cardiomyopathy guideline were adopted in this guideline to provide a complete overview of recommendations for pregnancy surveillance. 229 230 The final harmonized recommendations were critically appraised by four independent 231 external experts in the field and two survivor representatives.

232

233 **RESULTS**

234 Discordances across existing LTFU guidelines

235 Identification of concordances and discordances amongst existing surveillance 236 recommendations is displayed in **Appendix 6**. The literature search yielded 2,772 abstracts 237 for pregnancy and delivery related risks and 2,492 abstracts for congenital anomalies. In 238 total, 98 full texts were reviewed, and 28 articles were included (**Figure 1, included articles**

239	in Appendix 7). The evidence tables and summary of findings are presented in Appendix 8.		
240	The conclusions of evidence tables including GRADE assessment are summarized in Table 1		
241	and Appendix 9 and depicted in a color scheme in Appendix 10.		
242			
243	Who needs preconception consultation or specific obstetric surveillance?		
244	Evidence for risks during pregnancy		
245	Miscarriage		
246	There is moderate level evidence that CAYA cancer survivors treated with radiotherapy to		
247	volumes exposing the uterus are at increased risk of miscarriage compared to the general		
248	population ^{9, 14, 23-29} . However, this association was only borderline significant in a large cohort		
249	from the British Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (BCCSS) ²⁶ and not significant in two smaller		
250	studies ^{24, 28} . There is only low level evidence for a dose-response relationship ^{29, 30} . The		
251	evidence indicated no significant effect due to chemotherapy ^{9, 26, 30, 31} .		
252			
253	Termination of pregnancy		
254	There is no data indicating an increased risk of medically-induced terminations (very low		
255	level evidence) ^{14, 23, 26, 29, 32} among CAYA cancer survivors in general. However, there is (very)		
256	low level evidence for an increased risk for termination of pregnancy after any		
257	radiotherapy ^{14, 26} and chemotherapy ^{14, 26} . Of note, these findings are compromised by		
258	terminology in the relevant reports that limits the distinction between medically-indicated		

260

259

261 Stillbirth

and elective termination of pregnancy.

There is no data indicating an increased risk of stillbirth (moderate level evidence) in CAYA cancer survivors in general^{9, 29}, and low level evidence for increased risk of stillbirth after moderate to high doses of ovarian-uterine radiotherapy (>10 Gy)³³ or abdominopelvic radiotherapy (>25 Gy)³⁰.

266

267 Gestational hypertension

There is very low level evidence for an effect of radiotherapy on the risk of gestational 268 hypertension in CAYA cancer survivors as compared to survivors treated without 269 radiotherapy. The increased risk was only reported in the abdominopelvic irradiated 270 survivors who had been diagnosed with Wilms tumor in the BCCSS³⁴, while two smaller 271 studies did not find this association^{13, 35}. A paper from the National Wilms Tumor Study 272 273 Group observed an increased risk of any hypertensive disorder of pregnancy with increasing doses of flank radiotherapy, but as this was the only identified study assessing radiotherapy 274 dose, the level of evidence is very low. 275

276

277 Pre-eclampsia

There is low level evidence for an increased risk of pre-eclampsia in CAYA cancer survivors as compared to controls, as this association was reported in one large population-based Australian study⁹ but not in two other studies^{11, 13}. Of note, one of these studies concerned a small sub-cohort of 6 CAYA cancer survivors exposed to radiotherapy to the abdomen, none of whom developed pre-eclampsia¹³. No studies were identified that evaluated the risk of pre-eclampsia after chemotherapy.

284

285 Maternal anemia

There is low level evidence that abdominopelvic radiotherapy increases the risk of maternal anemia in CAYA cancer survivors as compared to non-irradiated survivors. This is based on increased risks observed in one large study³⁴ while the effect was not observed in another equally-sized cohort¹¹.

290

291 Gestational diabetes

There is low level evidence overall for an increased risk of gestational diabetes in CAYA cancer survivors as compared to controls, based on one report that found the association⁹ and two that did not show an association^{11, 35}. There is low level evidence for an effect of abdominopelvic radiotherapy^{9, 11, 34, 35}, moderate level evidence that there is no effect of chemotherapy, ^{9, 11, 35} and high level evidence that there is no effect of age at diagnosis^{9, 11, 34} on the risk of gestational diabetes.

298

299 Malposition of the fetus

300 There is no increased risk of malposition of the fetus (low level evidence), and no effect of 301 radiotherapy on this outcome (very low level evidence)^{10, 34}.

302

303 Evidence for gestational length and birth weight

304 *Premature birth*

305 CAYA cancer survivors are at increased risk of premature birth (before 37 weeks of 306 gestation) as compared to siblings and the general population (moderate level evidence)^{9-13,} 307 ^{27, 28, 35}. High level evidence showed that radiotherapy to volumes exposing the uterus 308 increases the risk of premature birth^{9, 11, 13, 28, 34, 35}. Two reports did not delineate specific 309 radiotherapy volumes, categorizing groups only as treated with or without any type of

radiotherapy; but both also showed increased risk after treatment with radiotherapy^{9, 11}. We 310 311 found low level evidence for a dose response relationship with radiotherapy, including one 312 study that showed a trend for increasing risk with increasing flank radiation dose, specifically with doses >15 Gy^{14} . Another study showed increased risks specifically with doses >5 Gy to 313 314 the uterus and in a smaller sub-cohort treated prior to menarche, an even lower threshold of 2.5 Gy¹². One study showed that chemotherapy was associated with an increased risk of 315 premature birth (low level evidence)¹¹. However, this effect was not found in a small 316 Japanese study³⁵ or in a large Australian population-based study⁹. One study did not observe 317 a significant effect of alkylating agent dose on risk of premature birth (very low level 318 evidence)¹². 319

320

321 Low birth weight

There is moderate level evidence for an increased risk of low birth weight (below 2500 322 grams) delivery in CAYA cancer survivors as compared to controls^{9-13, 27, 35} and high level 323 evidence for this outcome after radiotherapy to volumes exposing the uterus^{9, 11, 13, 28, 30, 34,} 324 ³⁵. A dose response relationship was observed in survivors of Wilms tumor³¹ and risk of an 325 observed after >2.5 Gy^{12} to the uterus and >25 Gy^{30} effect of radiotherapy was 326 abdominopelvic radiotherapy (moderate level evidence)^{12, 30}. While three studies did not 327 identify chemotherapy as a risk factor for low birth weight^{9, 30, 35}, the association was 328 suggested in one report¹¹(very low level evidence). There also seems to be no effect of 329 330 alkylating agent dose (very low level evidence) on the risk of giving birth to a child with a low birth weight¹². 331

332

333 Small for gestational age

There is low level evidence for no increased risk of small for gestational age (SGA; <10th percentile birth weight for gestational age) delivery among CAYA cancer survivors in general as compared to controls^{11, 12, 35}. Although radiotherapy versus no radiotherapy was not found to be significantly associated with this outcome in four studies^{13, 28, 30, 35}, two studies showed that patients treated with specific doses of abdominopelvic radiotherapy (>5 Gy and >25 Gy, respectively) did have an increased risk (low level evidence)^{12, 30}.

340

341 Evidence for mode of delivery

342 Vaginal delivery

There is high level evidence indicating that rates of spontaneous vaginal births are lower in CAYA cancer survivors compared to controls^{8, 10}. There was no significant difference between survivors and controls (moderate level evidence)^{8, 10, 13}, and no significant effect of radiotherapy (very low level evidence)¹³ on occurrence of assisted vaginal delivery.

347

348 Cesarean delivery

There is low level evidence for higher rates of "any cesarean section" (data from reports that did not distinguish between elective (primary) and emergency (secondary/urgent) cesarean sections) among CAYA cancer survivors as compared to controls^{9-11, 35}, including reports evaluating prevalence after radiotherapy and chemotherapy (low level evidence)^{9, 35}.

High level evidence was identified for an increased rate of an elective cesarean delivery^{8, 10,} ^{11, 34}, especially after abdominopelvic radiotherapy (moderate level evidence)³⁴. No significantly increased rate was observed for the occurrence of emergency cesarean delivery (moderate level evidence)^{8, 10, 13, 34}. Radiotherapy nor age at diagnosis significantly affected the rate of emergency cesarean section (high level evidence)^{8, 13, 34}

358	
359	Evidence for risks related to delivery
360	Postpartum hemorrhage
361	There is low level evidence for an increased risk of postpartum hemorrhage in CAYA cancer
362	survivors as compared to controls. An increased risk was observed in one report ⁸ but not in
363	four others ^{9, 10, 13, 34} . There is low level evidence for a statistically significant effect of
364	abdominal radiotherapy for this outcome based on one small study suggesting an increased
365	risk ¹³ , while another larger study did not find an increased risk ³⁴ .
366	
367	Evidence for problems of the neonate
368	Congenital anomalies
369	There is high level evidence that there is no increased risk of congenital anomalies among
370	neonates of CAYA cancer survivors as compared to controls. Nine studies, with large
371	heterogeneity in outcome definitions, have reported on the prevalence of congenital
372	anomalies and none showed an increased risk ^{9, 11, 13, 32, 36-40} . There is also high level evidence
373	that there is no significant effect of radiotherapy delivered as part of CAYA cancer therapy
374	on the risk of congenital anomalies ^{13, 30, 36, 38, 39, 41, 42} .
375	
376	Evidence for additional obstetric outcomes
377	The evidence levels on the risk of retained placenta/manual removal of the placenta,
378	placental pathologies, fetal growth restriction, uterine scar from previous surgery and
379	perineal laceration/rupture were low to very low or revealed no increased risk for these
380	outcomes. Concerning the neonate, the evidence levels on the risk of resuscitation and

admission to a special care unit were very low. Additional outcomes evaluated in a very

381

382 limited number of papers are reported in Appendix 6, also demonstrating only low to very383 low levels of evidence.

384

385 Translating evidence into recommendations

386 Final recommendations, formulated based on at least moderate or high levels of evidence 387 for the risk of obstetric outcomes and its determinants (Table 1) are summarized in Table 2. There was moderate level evidence for an increased risk of miscarriage after radiotherapy to 388 389 volumes exposing the uterus, and high level evidence for an increased risk of premature 390 birth (<37 weeks of gestation) and low birth weight (<2500 grams) after radiotherapy to 391 volumes exposing the uterus. In addition, CAYA cancer survivors had higher rates of elective 392 cesarean section (high level evidence). There was high level evidence that there is no 393 increased risk of congenital anomalies in the offspring of CAYA cancer survivors. Lower levels of evidence were included for the identification of gaps in knowledge and future research 394 directions (Panel). Radiotherapy was of specific interest if and when a dose-response 395 relationship was identified. Although low level evidence suggests a dose-response 396 397 relationship of radiotherapy to volumes exposing the uterus with the risk of miscarrriage^{29,} ³⁰, insufficient evidence is available to identify a safe threshold dose. 398

For every adverse outcome, the balance between benefits and harms of preconception counseling and surveillance, resource use, acceptability to stakeholders and feasibility or barriers for implementation was considered. The panel agreed that, in general, all female CAYA cancer survivors of reproductive age should be informed by healthcare providers about their potential risk for adverse obstetric outcomes based on cancer treatment exposures (strong recommendation).

405 For example, female CAYA cancer survivors treated with radiotherapy to volumes exposing the uterus and their health care providers should be aware of the risk of adverse obstetric 406 407 outcomes including miscarriage (moderate quality evidence), premature birth (high quality 408 evidence) and low birth weight (high quality evidence). In addition, high risk obstetric 409 surveillance is recommended for this patient group (strong recommendations). The panel 410 agreed that the benefits of preconception counseling and obstetric surveillance for these 411 outcomes (i.e., early detection of fetal growth restriction or threatened premature delivery 412 requiring intervention to ensure optimal neonatal outcome) clearly outweigh the potential harms (e.g., stress, anxiety and potential higher health care costs). 413

414 Regarding the increased likelihood of elective cesarean section, the panel agreed that no 415 recommendations could be drawn as this risk may be attributable to myriad factors 416 including the survivor's or the healthcare provider's concern.

The absence of an increased risk of congenital anomalies (high quality evidence) is of great importance to survivors and the panel agreed that female CAYA cancer survivors and their health care providers should be aware of this (strong recommendation).

420 Based on previous recommendations from the IGHG for cardiomyopathy surveillance for 421 CAYA cancer survivors, cardiomyopathy surveillance is reasonable prior to pregnancy or in the first trimester for all female survivors treated with anthracyclines and/or chest radiation 422 (moderate recommendation)⁴³. No recommendations have been formulated for the 423 424 frequency of ongoing cardiomyopathy surveillance in pregnant survivors who have normal 425 left ventricular systolic function immediately prior to or during the first trimester of 426 pregnancy. However, the IGHG panel recommended that health care providers remain alert 427 for cardiomyopathy in survivors treated with anthracyclines and/or chest-directed radiation 428 who present with commonly reported symptoms such as shortness of breath, fatigue, and

429 ankle swelling⁴³. The panel additionally emphasized that CAYA cancer survivors with 430 compromised left ventricular systolic function (<30%) before pregnancy are more likely to 431 have further reduction in cardiac function during pregnancy or post-partum, irrespective of 432 lifetime anthracycline dose⁴³.

433

434 COMMENT

This paper presents the IGHG recommendations for counseling and surveillance of female CAYA cancer survivors before and during pregnancy. Evidence-based recommendations for survivor risk groups were formulated to facilitate consistent long-term follow-up care, optimize the quality of care and minimize burden of disease and unnecessary surveillance. As a result of this effort, the guideline panel also stressed the need for future research in larger cohorts to advance understanding about the radiotherapy dose response relationship to adverse obstetric outcomes.

442 Critical evaluation of the published literature aided by the GRADE methodology yielded 443 moderate level evidence that CAYA cancer survivors are at increased risk of miscarriage after radiotherapy^{9, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 31}. When reported, the definition of a miscarriage was 444 445 heterogeneous (usually pregnancies ending before gestational week 20 or, in the BCCSS, 446 before 24 weeks) and the panel acknowledged the potential for reporting bias in both self-447 reported and registry-based data. However, increased risks were observed in three large cohorts, from the North American Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (CCSS) (self-reported 448 miscarriage, not further specified¹⁴), Australia (registered threatened miscarriage after 20 449 weeks of gestation⁹) and Denmark (registered spontaneous abortion, not further 450 specified²⁹). Although low level evidence suggests a dose-response relationship with 451 radiotherapy to volumes exposing the uterus^{29, 30}, there is insufficient evidence to identify a 452

453 safe threshold dose. Even though there is no specific action to reduce this risk, the panel454 agreed survivors need to be counseled of their potential increased risk of miscarriage.

Lack of definition of termination of pregnancy^{14, 29, 32} and broad and overlapping definitions of stillbirth (e.g. the fetus not surviving after 20 weeks of gestation⁹, after 28 weeks²⁹, or combined with neonatal deaths within the first 28 days of life³³), and potential reporting bias resulted in a low body of evidence on which to base recommendations (**Panel**).

Interestingly, a recent study in survivors aged 39 years or less at cancer diagnosis with robust outcome reporting showed a significantly reduced risk of termination of pregnancy⁴⁴, stressing the need for further research to define more accurately the prevalence of this outcome.

463 We identified high level evidence for the increased risks of premature birth and low birth weight after radiotherapy to volumes exposing the uterus^{9-14, 27, 28, 30, 31, 34, 35}. The evidence 464 for dose-response relationships between radiotherapy and miscarriage, premature birth and 465 low birth weight is compelling, but clear evidence to determine a safe threshold dose is 466 467 lacking. Different approaches have been used to assess radiotherapy dose, giving rise to bias when comparing these studies^{12, 27, 29, 30, 45}. In modern clinical practice, approximation of 468 469 organ-specific radiation exposure parameters that are much closer to the individual true dose distribution during treatment is feasible, and expected to facilitate a more accurate 470 471 assessment of the relationship of radiation dose and obstetric risks, in future studies.

472 Radiotherapy to volumes exposing the ovaries, that is, radiotherapy targeting the lower 473 body and thereby exposing the ovaries to substantial amounts of ionizing radiation, is 474 associated with premature ovarian insufficiency⁴⁶⁻⁴⁹ but does not lead to increased risks of 475 stillbirth or congenital anomalies as compared to the general population. Mechanisms 476 leading to increased rates of miscarriage, premature delivery and low birth weight have not

477 been completely elucidated, but several hypotheses have been proposed. Radiotherapy to volumes exposing the uterus can damage the uterine vasculature and muscular 478 development⁵⁰, and potentially impair endometrial function due to impaired blood supply. 479 480 This may result in poor implantation of the embryo and poor placental growth which could 481 contribute to subsequent early miscarriage. The increased risks of premature birth and low 482 birth weight may result from uterine vasculature injury leading to impaired utero-placental blood flow, insufficient placental development and hence fetal growth restriction, or may 483 result from a reduced uterine elasticity and volume^{50, 51}. Additionally, hormonal deficiency as 484 a consequence of ovarian failure may lead to smaller uterine volumes⁵¹. 485

486 Cancer survivors should be counseled about obstetric risks when developmentally and 487 clinically appropriate. Multimorbidity is often the norm in CAYA cancer survivors, emphasizing the need to understand specific treatment-related risks and how collectively 488 489 these conditions may impact the course of pregnancy. Communication among obstetric and 490 oncology providers and survivors is key in these complicated cases. Preconception 491 consultation and obstetric surveillance may lead to referral to a specialized obstetric team rather than a general obstetric or midwifery team and ensure selection of a hospital for the 492 493 place of birth rather than a birth center or home. Further clinical management, such as 494 antenatal monitoring for heightened risk of low birth weight or cardiac monitoring, should 495 adhere to established obstetric care guidelines.

496 No recommendations were formulated based on the high level of evidence concerning the 497 increased likelihood of an elective cesarean section. The increased obstetric risks of cancer 498 survivors may influence the varied clinical, cultural and personal factors for patients and 499 providers that contribute to decision making about elective cesarean sections. Reassuringly,

the likelihood of an emergency cesarean section was not increased among women treatedwith radiotherapy.

A large and consistent body of evidence indicates that neonates of CAYA cancer survivors treated with and without radiotherapy are not at increased risk of congenital anomalies^{13, 30,} 3^{6, 38, 39, 41, 42}. As this is often a major concern in CAYA cancer survivors, the panel recommends reassurance of CAYA cancer survivors that there is no indication of such an increased risk.

The recommendations presented here have benefited from the systematic appraisal of bias 507 508 and transparent implementation of GRADE in assessing the available evidence. Their 509 relevance is further strengthened by the careful considerations that the multidisciplinary 510 and international panel made by extrapolating evidence to recommendations. Some 511 limitations include variability of definitions of outcomes and availability of specific details regarding radiotherapy (dose and site) and chemotherapy (agents and dose) across studies, 512 513 potential study biases without indication of response rates, and the scarcity of studies with 514 multivariable analyses to address confounding clinical issues. In addition, the body of 515 evidence often indicated no increased risk, but few power calculations were presented in 516 the papers to distinguish between absence of evidence and evidence of absence of an association. We note that we have not addressed thyroid dysfunction in CAYA cancer 517 survivors, an important topic as latent hypothyroidism can impact fetal brain development^{15,} 518 ¹⁶. Recommendations on surveillance will be formulated in an upcoming IGHG guideline on 519 520 surveillance of thyroid dysfunction. A periodic update of the obstetric recommendations is 521 planned, and the IGHG thyroid dysfunction surveillance recommendations will then also be included. 522

523 The identification of key gaps in knowledge is an important result of the harmonization 524 process (**Panel**). These evidence gaps should be addressed in strong methodical and 525 comprehensive studies from sufficiently large cohorts, or preferably international 526 multicenter collaborative projects to increase generalizability of the results.

527

528 CONCLUSION

This IGHG analysis identified specific adverse obstetric related outcomes that are increased in CAYA cancer survivors to characterize the population that will benefit specifically from an individualized preconception consultation and pregnancy surveillance. Key findings are that there are increased risks of premature delivery and low birth weight associated with radiotherapy targeting the lower body and thereby exposing the uterus, which warrant highrisk pregnancy surveillance, and that survivors should be reassured there is no increased risk of congenital abnormality.

536

538 Contributors

539 ALLFK, RLM, LCMK, MMH, MMHE, and JL contributed to the conception and design of the

540 study. All authors contributed to the search strategy, data extractions, interpretations of the

541 data, formulation of the recommendations and critically revised the report. All authors

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- 548
- 549 Declaration of interests
- 550 The authors have no competing interests to declare.

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685			

687 **Table 1.** Overall conclusions of evidence for obstetric risks in female childhood and adolescent cancer

688 survivors (key outcomes)

Who needs preconception counseling? Who needs high-risk pregnancy surveillance?	
Risk of miscarriage in female cancer survivors diagnosed before age 25 years	Level of evidence*
No increased risk in CAYA cancer survivors vs controls.	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE ^{9, 24,} 25, 27, 29, 32
Increased risk after (abdominopelvic) radiotherapy vs. no radiotherapy.	$\bigoplus_{23-29} \bigoplus \bigoplus MODERATE^{9, 14}$
Increased risk with increasing doses of abdominopelvic and pituitary radiotherapy vs.	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus LOW^{29, 30}$
no radiotherapy.	0.14
No significant effect of <i>chemotherapy</i> vs. no chemotherapy.	$\bigoplus_{25, 26, 30} \bigoplus MODERATE^{9, 14,}$
Increased risk after chemotherapy and radiotherapy (no specific field) vs. no	⊕⊕⊖⊖ LOW ^{9, 14, 24, 25, 30}
chemotherapy and radiotherapy.	
No significant effect of age at diagnosis.	⊕⊕⊖⊖ LOW ⁹
Risk of terminations in female cancer survivors diagnosed before age 25 years	Level of evidence
No increased risk in CAYA cancer survivors vs controls.	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ^{29, 32}
Increased risk after radiotherapy vs. no radiotherapy.	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus LOW^{14, 26}$
Increased risk after <i>chemotherapy</i> vs. no chemotherapy.	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ^{14, 26}
Increased risk after chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy (to any field or gonadal) vs. no	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus LOW^{14, 23}$
chemotherapy and radiotherapy.	
Risk of stillbirth in female cancer survivors diagnosed before age 25 years	Level of evidence
No increased risk in CAYA cancer survivors vs controls.	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE ^{9, 29}
No significant effect of <i>radiotherapy</i> vs. no radiotherapy.	⊕⊕⊖⊖ LOW ^{9, 14, 26, 30, 41}
Increased risk after high-dose ovarian-abdominal radiotherapy vs. no radiotherapy.	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus$ LOW ^{30, 33, 41}
Increased risk after abdominopelvic radiotherapy (>1.00 Gy) given before menarche	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus \text{LOW}^{33}$
vs. no radiotherapy, but no significant effect when given after menarche	***
No significant effect of <i>chemotherapy</i> vs. no chemotherapy.	⊕⊕⊖⊖ LOW ^{9, 14, 26, 30}
No significant effect of alkylating agent dose.	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus \text{LOW}^{33}$
No significant effect of alkylating agents in combination with abdominal-pelvic	$\bigoplus \bigoplus \ominus \ominus \cup LOW^{14, 23, 30}$
radiation vs. no alkylating agents and abdominal-pelvic radiation.	WWUU
Risk of gestational hypertension in female cancer survivors diagnosed before age 25	Level of evidence
years	
No increased risk in CAYA cancer survivors vs controls.	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ^{13, 35}
Increased risk after abdominopelvic radiotherapy vs. no radiotherapy.	$\bigoplus \ominus \ominus \ominus \ominus \forall VERY LOW^{13, 34,}$
	35
Increased risk with <i>increasing doses of flank radiotherapy</i> in CAYA Wilms tumor survivors.	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ⁴⁵
No significant effect of <i>chemotherapy</i> vs. no chemotherapy.	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ³⁵
No significant effect of age at diagnosis.	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus \text{LOW}^{34}$
Risk of pre-eclampsia in female cancer survivors diagnosed before age 25 years	Level of evidence
Increased risk in CAYA cancer survivors vs controls.	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus LOW^{9, 11, 13}$
No significant effect of <i>abdominopelvic radiotherapy</i> vs. no radiotherapy.	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus$ LOW $\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW 13
Risk of maternal anemia in female cancer survivors diagnosed before age 25 years	Level of evidence
No increased risk in CAYA cancer survivors vs controls.	$\oplus \oplus \oplus \oplus \bigoplus MODERATE^{9,11}$
Increased risk after (abdominopelvic) radiotherapy vs. no radiotherapy.	$\oplus \oplus \oplus \oplus \oplus LOW^{11, 34}$
Increased risk after <i>chemotherapy</i> vs. no chemotherapy.	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus \cup LOW^{11}$
	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus LOW^{11}$
No significant effect of radiotherapy and chemotherapy vs. controls.	
No significant effect of age at diagnosis.	
Risk of gestational diabetes in female cancer survivors diagnosed before age 25 years	Level of evidence
Increased risk in CAYA cancer survivors vs controls.	⊕⊕⊖⊖ LOW ^{9, 11, 35}
Increased risk after (abdominopelvic) radiotherapy vs. no radiotherapy.	$\bigoplus \bigoplus \bigoplus \bigoplus LOW^{9, 11, 34, 35}$

No significant effect of <i>chemotherapy</i> vs. no chemotherapy.	$\bigoplus_{35} \bigoplus \bigoplus \bigoplus MODERATE^{9, 11,}$
Increased risk after chemotherapy in combination with radiotherapy vs. controls.	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ^{9, 11}
No significant effect of age at diagnosis.	⊕⊕⊕ HIGH ^{9, 11, 34}
Risk of malposition in female cancer survivors diagnosed before age 25 years	Level of evidence
No increased risk in CAYA cancer survivors vs. controls.	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ¹⁰
No significant effect of <i>radiotherapy</i> vs. no radiotherapy.	
Increased risk with increasing doses flank radiation.	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ⁴⁵
No significant effect of age at diagnosis.	⊕⊕⊕ HIGH ^{10, 34}
Risk of postpartum hemorrhage in female cancer survivors diagnosed before age 25	Level of evidence
years	
Increased risk in CAYA cancer survivors vs controls.	$\bigoplus \bigoplus \ominus \ominus LOW^{8\text{10, 13, 34}}$
Increased risk after abdominopelvic radiotherapy vs. no radiotherapy.	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ^{13, 34}
No significant effect of age at diagnosis.	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus$ LOW ³⁴
Risk of premature birth in female cancer survivors diagnosed before age 25 years	Level of evidence
Increased risk in CAYA cancer survivors vs. controls.	$\bigoplus_{27, 35} \bigoplus \bigoplus MODERATE^{9-13,}$
Increased risk after (abdominopelvic) radiotherapy vs. no radiotherapy.	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH ^{9, 11, 13, 28, 34,} 35
Increased risk with increasing doses of ovarian-abdominal radiotherapy (>5/15 Gy).	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus LOW^{12, 45}$
Increased risk after <i>chemotherapy</i> vs. no chemotherapy.	$\bigoplus \bigoplus \ominus \ominus LOW^{9, 11, 35}$
No significant effect of alkylating agent dose.	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus$ LOW ¹²
Increased risk after <i>radiotherapy and chemotherapy</i> vs. no radiotherapy and chemotherapy.	$\oplus \oplus \oplus \ominus$ MODERATE ^{9, 11}
Increased risk in <i>survivors aged >5 yrs at cancer diagnosis</i> vs. controls, but no significant effect in survivors aged <5 yrs at cancer diagnosis	$\bigoplus \bigoplus \ominus \ominus LOW^{9, 11, 34}$
Risk of low birth weight in female cancer survivors diagnosed before age 25 years	Level of evidence
Increased risk in CAYA cancer survivors vs controls.	\square
increased risk in CATA cancel survivors vs controls.	$\bigoplus_{27, 35} \bigoplus \bigoplus MODERATE^{9-13,}$
Increased risk after (abdominopelvic) radiotherapy vs. no radiotherapy.	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH ^{9, 11, 13, 28, 30,} 34, 35
Increased risk after increasing doses of abdominopelvic radiotherapy (>2.5/25 Gy)	$\bigoplus_{30, 45} \bigoplus \bigoplus MODERATE^{12, 27,}$
Increased risk after chemotherapy vs. no chemotherapy.	$\bigoplus_{35} \ominus \ominus \ominus VERY LOW^{9, 11, 30,}$
No significant effect alkylating agent dose.	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ¹²
Increased risk after radiotherapy and chemotherapy vs. no radiotherapy and	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ^{9, 11, 30}
chemotherapy.	
Increased risk in <i>survivors aged ≥20 yrs at cancer diagnosis</i> vs. controls, but no	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ^{9, 11, 34}
significant effect in survivors aged <20 yrs at cancer diagnosis	
Risk of delivery of a child small for gestational age in female cancer survivors	Level of evidence
diagnosed before age 25 years	
No increased risk in CAYA cancer survivors vs. controls.	$\bigoplus \bigoplus \ominus \ominus LOW^{11, 12, 35}$
No significant effect of (abdominopelvic) radiotherapy vs. no radiotherapy.	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus LOW^{13, 28, 30, 35}$
Increased risk after increasing doses of abdominopelvic radiotherapy.	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus LOW^{12, 30}$
No significant effect of <i>chemotherapy</i> vs. no chemotherapy.	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ³⁵
No significant effect of alkylating agent dose.	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus LOW^{12}$
No significant effect of radiotherapy and chemotherapy vs. surgery only.	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ³⁰
Risk of intrauterine growth restriction in female cancer survivors diagnosed before	Level of evidence
age 25 years	
No increased risk in CAYA cancer survivors vs. controls.	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ⁹
Likelihood of vaginal delivery in female cancer survivors diagnosed before age 25 years	Level of evidence
Decreased likelihood of vaginal birth in in CAYA cancer survivors vs. controls.	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH ^{8, 10}
Likelihood of assisted vaginal delivery in female cancer survivors diagnosed before	Level of evidence

age 25 years	
No increased likelihood of in CAYA cancer survivors vs. controls.	$\bigoplus_{13} \bigoplus \bigoplus \bigoplus MODERATE^{8, 10,}$
No significant effect of radiotherapy vs. no radiotherapy.	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ¹³
No significant effect of age at diagnosis.	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus LOW^{10}$
Risk of any cesarean section in female cancer survivors diagnosed before age 25 years	Level of evidence
Increased likelihood of any cesarean section in in CAYA cancer survivors vs controls.	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus LOW^{9-11, 35}$
Increased likelihood after <i>radiotherapy</i> vs. no radiotherapy.	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus$ LOW ^{9, 35}
Increased likelihood after <i>chemotherapy</i> vs. no chemotherapy,	⊕⊕⊖⊖ LOW ^{9, 35}
Significant effect of age at diagnosis (increased effect if 0-14 yrs at diagnosis)	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ^{9, 10}
Likelihood of an elective/primary cesarean section in female cancer survivors	Level of evidence
diagnosed before age 25 years	0 10 11 24
Increased likelihood in CAYA cancer survivors vs controls.	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH ^{8, 10, 11, 34}
Increased likelihood after <i>radiotherapy</i> vs. no radiotherapy, specifically after abdominal radiotherapy in Wilms survivors.	$\oplus \oplus \oplus \ominus$ MODERATE ³⁴
No significant effect of age at diagnosis.	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH ³⁴
Likelihood of an emergency/secondary/urgent cesarean section in female cancer survivors diagnosed before age 25 years	Level of evidence
No increased likelihood in CAYA cancer survivors vs controls.	$\bigoplus_{13, 34} \bigoplus \bigoplus MODERATE^{8, 10,}$
No significant effect of <i>radiotherapy</i> vs. no radiotherapy.	$\oplus \oplus \oplus \oplus$ HIGH ^{13, 34}
No significant effect of age at diagnosis.	$\oplus \oplus \oplus \ominus$ MODERATE ^{8, 34}
Risk of congenital anomalies/abnormalities in female cancer survivors diagnosed before age 25 years	Level of evidence
No increased risk in CAYA cancer survivors vs controls.	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH ^{9, 11, 13, 32, 36-}
No significant effect of (ovarian-abdominal) radiotherapy vs. no radiotherapy.	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH ^{13, 30, 36, 38,} ^{39, 41, 42}
No significant effect of radiotherapy dose.	$\bigoplus_{41, 42, 45} \bigoplus MODERATE^{30, 36,}$
No significant effect of alkylating agents vs. no alkylating agents.	$\bigoplus_{39, 41, 42, 52} \bigoplus MODERATE^{30, 38,}$
No significant effect of alkylating agent dose.	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ⁴²
No significant effect of alkylating agents in combination with abdominal-pelvic	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE ^{23, 30}
radiation vs. no alkylating agents and abdominal-pelvic radiation.	41
No significant effect of age at diagnosis.	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ³⁹
Rate of supervision of high-risk pregnancy in female cancer survivors diagnosed before age 25 years	Level of evidence
No increased rates in CAYA cancer survivors vs controls.	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus LOW^{34}$
No significant effect of radiotherapy vs. no radiotherapy.	$\oplus \oplus \ominus \ominus LOW^{34}$
Risk of retained placenta/manual removal of the placenta in female cancer survivors diagnosed before age 25 years	Level of evidence
No increased risk in CAYA cancer survivors vs. controls.	⊕⊕⊖⊖ LOW ^{9, 13}
Risk of placental pathologies in female cancer survivors diagnosed before age 25 years	Level of evidence
No increased risk in CAYA cancer survivors vs. controls.	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ¹⁰
Risk of resuscitation of the neonate born to female cancer survivors diagnosed before age 25 years	Level of evidence
Increased risk in CAYA cancer survivors vs. controls.	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ⁹
Likelihood of admission to a special care unit in neonates born to female cancer	Level of evidence
survivors diagnosed before age 25 years	
Increased likelihood in CAYA cancer survivors vs. controls.	$\oplus \ominus \ominus \ominus$ VERY LOW ⁹

689 *Citations refer to papers on which the GRADE level of evidence was based on, and do not

690 necessarily support the overall conclusion.

Journal Pre-proof

692 Table 2. Harmonized recommendations for counseling and surveillance in pregnancy

General recommendation

Health care providers should discuss the risk of adverse obstetric outcomes based on the specific

cancer treatment exposures with all female CAYA cancer survivors of reproductive age.

Who needs preconception counseling?

Female CAYA cancer survivors and their health care providers should be aware that there is no evidence to support that survivors have an increased risk of giving birth to a child with <u>congenital</u> <u>anomalies</u> (high quality evidence).

Female CAYA cancer survivors treated with radiotherapy to volumes exposing the uterus and their health care providers should be aware of the risk of adverse obstetric outcomes including <u>miscarriage</u> (moderate quality evidence), <u>premature birth</u> (high quality evidence) and <u>low birth</u> <u>weight</u> (high quality evidence).

Who needs specific obstetric surveillance during pregnancy?

High risk obstetric surveillance is recommended for CAYA cancer survivors treated with

radiotherapy to volumes exposing the uterus due to the risk of premature birth and low birth

weight (high quality evidence).

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Who needs specific cardiac surveillance during pregnancy? *Based on IGHG cardiomyopathy guideline*⁴³

<u>Cardiomyopathy surveillance</u> is reasonable prior to pregnancy or in the first trimester for all female survivors treated with anthracyclines and/or chest radiation (moderate level recommendation, moderate quality evidence)⁴³.

No recommendations can be formulated for the frequency of ongoing surveillance in pregnant survivors who have normal left ventricular systolic function immediately prior to or during the first trimester of pregnancy (moderate level recommendation, low quality evidence)⁴³.

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Panel: Gaps in knowledge and future directions for research of obstetric outcomes in CAYA cancer survivors

- Risks of medical and elective termination of pregnancy following CAYCA cancer, including standardized definitions of this outcome and its confounders
- Risks of gestational diabetes, gestational hypertension and pre-eclampsia, giving birth to babies small for gestational age, very premature delivery (<32 weeks of gestation) or postpartum hemorrhage
- Effect of radiotherapy and dose-response relationships to specific volumes (e.g., uterus) on obstetric outcomes
- Influence of relatively low doses of radiotherapy (including 10-15 Gy) that reach the uterus on obstetric outcomes
- Effect of age at cancer diagnosis and pubertal stage at treatment on all obstetric risks
- The contribution of environmental factors known to affect obstetric outcomes (e.g., BMI, smoking)
- The contribution of obstetric risk associated with artificial reproductive technology (ART), especially as fertility rates after ART (including donor oocytes) increase
- Development of a risk prediction algorithm for outcomes including miscarriage, premature delivery and low birth weight, taking into account, e.g., age at cancer diagnosis, cancer treatment, maternal age, smoking, parity and ART
- Methods to optimize timely provision of information about obstetric risk to CAYA cancer survivors in a variety of health care systems and health literacy settings
- The effect of high risk surveillance on clinical relevant outcomes for survivors at risk

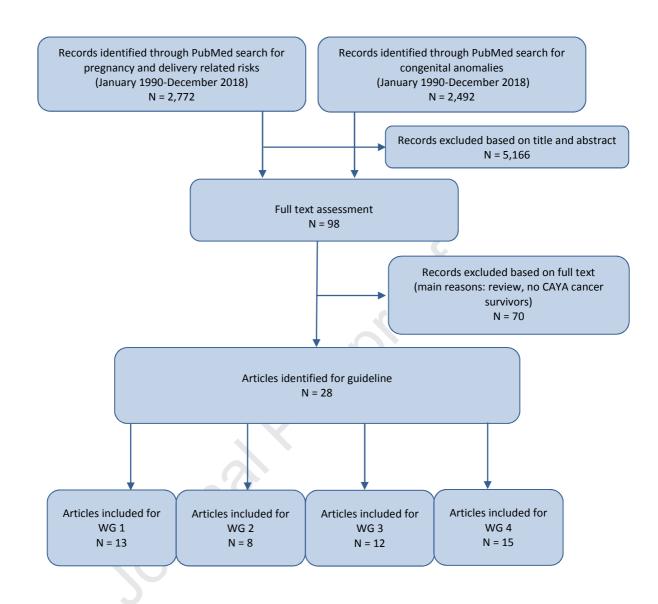


Figure 1. Flowchart of selected studies. Articles could be included for multiple working groups (WG). Four working groups respectively evaluated the following topics: 1) adverse fetal outcomes in pregnancy (such as miscarriage); 2) adverse maternal outcomes in pregnancy; 3) delivery outcomes; and 4) congenital anomalies of the neonate.