

Reproductive ageing and its reflection in obstetrics in Czechia

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to explore trends in obstetrics in Czechia in the context of increasing maternal age. The key issue is the rise in the percentage of births performed by caesarean section. The first part of the work sums up the current knowledge of fertility development and describes the selected effects of fertility postponement, health risks, especially of caesarean sections. Subsequently, the evolution of fertility in Czechia between 1989 and 2018 and the development in the proportion of births by caesarean section from 1994 to 2018 are analysed. The incidence of caesarean section births is examined based on individual anonymous data from the National Health Information System in 2018. It considers the age of the mothers and other characteristics of the mothers and newborns in Czechia. The odds of giving birth by caesarean section are estimated using the binary logistical regression method. It turns out that in recent years the growth of births executed by caesarean section has stopped, although the age of mothers and the use of assisted reproduction methods continues to grow. Reproductive ageing is reflected in the increase in caesarean section births, but at the same time its occurrence is influenced by a number of other variables.

Key words: fertility, fertility postponement, Czechia, health, IVF, delivery, Caesarean section