

Pregnancy in aircrew

European Air Group
16th Advanced Aviation Medicine
Course



This presentation represents the views and experiences of the EAG course students and not necessarily the views or official policy of the individual nations



Women in the Air Forces of the course member nations



5%



24%



18%



10%



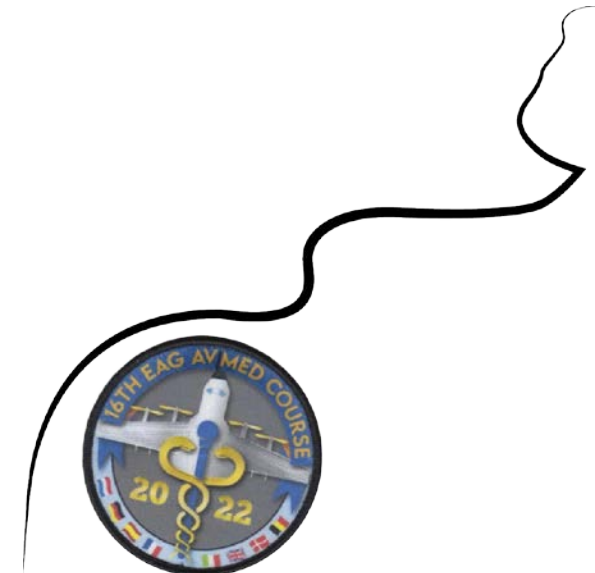
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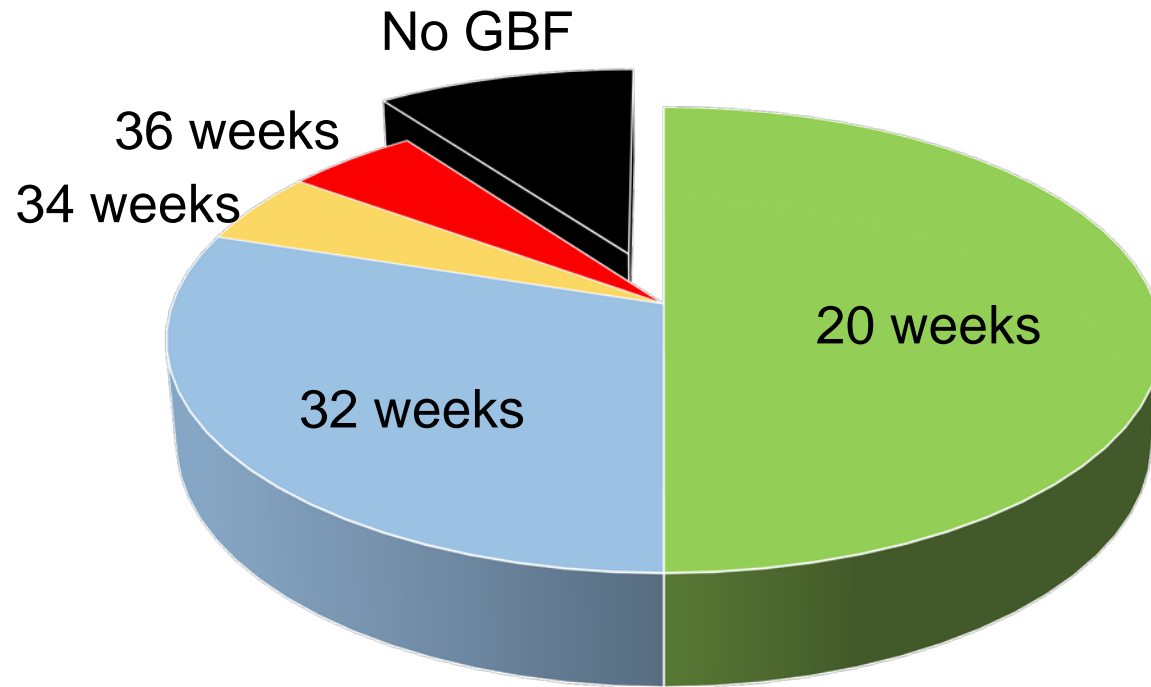


Definition of functions

- Air (pilots and all aircrew)
- Ground based functions (ATC, Controllers, RPA operators etc.)



Summary of current policies on pregnancy



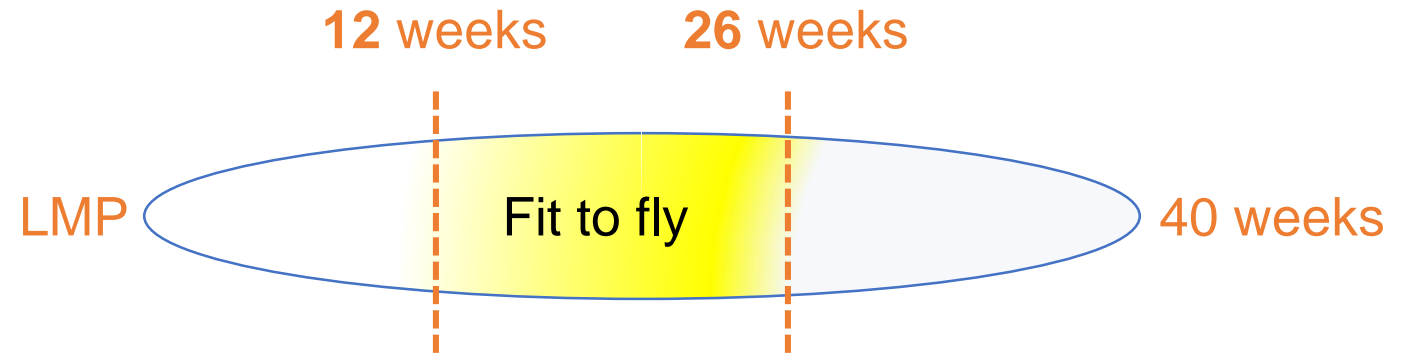
■ Spain ■ France, Italy ■ Netherlands, Germany, UK ■ Denmark ■ *Nil

1. Fit for GBF



Summary of current policies on pregnancy

NB: No EAG nations allowed pregnant aircrew on mission deployments.



- Only Netherlands allowed pregnant aircrew to be cleared to fly
- Between weeks 12 and 26.
- No high G
- OML (multi-crew limitation / unfit solo)

2. Fit to fly as aircrew



Risks in Pregnancy

- Changes in blood composition (thrombosis)
- Ergonomics: G-suit, constrained posture
- Impaired egress
- Cabin altitude (+ /- supplemented O2)
- Acceleration
- Hypobaric environment
- Ejection seats
- Environment: Radiation, noise, vibration, fumes, thermal
- Sleep disturbance, fatigue, anaemia → reduced alertness
- Impaired vision
- Risk of nausea / vomiting → reduced alertness

Threat

... for the woman (pilot)
... for the unborn child
... for flight safety



Conclusion

- Among the EAG nations only NLD allowed pregnant aircrew to fly (restricted conditions).
- None of the EAG nations allowed pregnant aircrew on mission deployments.
- No conclusive evidence to support current policies as seen among EAG nations (and others).
- Large number of potential hazards - less hard evidence.

Further discussion:

- Allow flying during 2nd trimester with certain restrictions?
- An option for pregnant aircrew vs. employers right to send aircrew flying during pregnancy?
- Need for consent or waiver?

