When the COVID-19 pandemic took off in March 2020, the available data from China remained insufficient to estimate the risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection for pregnant women and neonates (1, 2). To be able to counsel and treat pregnant women on the basis of data generated in Germany, the research network of the German Society of Perinatal Medicine (DGPM) initiated the COVID-19 Related Obstetric and Neonatal Outcome Study (CRONOS). Information on the study is available at www.dgpm-online.org und from the German Clinical Trials Register (DRKS00021208). On the background of case numbers of infections rising once again, we present the initial results of the registry, which has been in existence since 3 April 2020.

Method
All German maternity hospitals were invited to participate in the CRONOS registry. Obstetricians and neonatologists from 121 German hospitals and from Kepler University Hospital Linz, Austria, accepted this invitation. Ethics approval was obtained (University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein (UKSH) in Kiel, file number D 451/20). A reporting form was developed using the cloud-based electronic data capture platform of the service provider castoredc.com (Amsterdam, Netherlands). Women with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection during pregnancy were included. In addition to COVID-19 specific symptoms and treatments, pregnancy and birth specific events and neonatal outcomes were documented. The data were entered by each treating hospital. After patients had given informed consent, the further course of the pregnancy, the postpartum period, and the neonatal period were observed up to six week post partum. The data presented here were retrieved up to 1 October 2020. We used the software package Prism 8.3.0 (GraphPad Software, San Diego, USA) for our statistical analysis.

Results
98 of the 122 hospitals participated actively in the registry. These hospitals provided care during the preceding year for 185 787 patients, and thus >20% of births in Germany. Between 3 April 2020 and 1 October 2020, 247 cases were registered by 65 hospitals. The affected pregnant women were mostly (71%) younger than 35 and mostly (79%) had a body mass index (BMI) <30 kg/m². 38% of women were going through their first or second trimester. In 9 out of 14 cases, the SARS-CoV-2 infection affected the decision to deliver. 205 women have since recovered from SARS-CoV-2 infection. 185 have given birth. Four neonates (2.2%) tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) on their first or second day of life; all were discharged into their home environment. A follow-up survey after the neonatal period in 56 families did not yield any case of neonatal infection.

Discussion
The CRONOS registry data imply a mostly favorable course of SARS-CoV-2 infection in those pregnant women in Germany who were included in the study. The high rate of asymptomatic patients in the CRONOS registry can be explained by the introduction of comprehensive screening in hospitals (3) and is reflected in the positive outcomes. That said, in the group under study, rates of premature births and cesarean deliveries seemed slightly higher than the German average in previous years—but lower than is reflected in international data (4). Although intrauterine transmission of the virus with neuronal involvement of the neonate has been reported recently (5), such an event seems very rare. A limitation of this study is the fact that no conclusions can be drawn on the actual prevalence in pregnant women in Germany because of the cohort study design. Similarly, owing to the currently low case numbers, no final conclusions can be drawn regarding risk factors for severe maternal courses and neonatal infections. However, known risk factors such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity should prompt special attention, especially in infections occurring during the third trimester. The CRONOS data provide important information for counseling and caring for pregnant women and their newborns. Further hospitals have been invited to participate, with the aim of documenting all SARS-CoV-2 positive pregnant women in the population of Germany.

CRONOS Network
Ulrich Peck, Lars Mense, Bettina Kuschel, Peter Oppelt, Mario Rüdiger on behalf of the CRONOS network: Alexander Hein, Angela Lüs, Anja Leopold, Anke Raitter, Ann Carolin Langardt, Antonella Iannaccone, Asimina Kartsiou, Babett Ramsauer, Barbara Fitsinger, Bastian Reibe, Carla Maier, Carsten Hagenbeck, Carsten Lehment, Cathleen Heinemann, Charlotte Rohlwink, Christian Schindlbeck, Christine Morfeld, Christoph Schulz,

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CORRESPONDENCE

Research Letter
Pregnancy and SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Germany—the CRONOS Registry

Ulrich Pecks, Bettina Kuschel, Lars Mense, Peter Oppelt, Mario Rüdiger, CRONOS-Netzwerk
Universitätsklinikum Schleswig-Holstein Campus Kiel, Klinik für Gynäkologie und Geburtshilfe, Kiel (Pecks), Ulrich.Pecks@uksh.de
Klinik für Kinder- und Jugendmedizin, Fachbereich Neonatologie und Pädiatrische Intensivmedizin, Dresden (Mense, Rüdiger)
Kepler Universitätsklinikum Linz, Universitätsklinikum für Gynäkologie, Geburtshilfe & gyn. Endokrinologie, Linz, Österreich (Oppelt)
Zentrum für feto/neonatale Gesundheit an der Technischen Universität München, Sektion Geburtshilfe & gyn. Endokrinologie, Linz, Österreich (Oppelt)

Conflict of interest statement
Prof. Oppelt is in receipt of research support relating to COVID-19 (Corona Grant, Johannes-Keppler-University, Linz, Austria).
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References

Outcomes in pregnant women regarding SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19
- Currently recovered: 205
- Inpatient admission: 34
- Of which intensive care (ICU): 14
- Of which invasively ventilated: 5
- Of which intubated: 2
- Of which deceased: 1
- Ongoing or lost to follow-up: 40

Obstetric pregnancy outcome
- Completed pregnancies: 189
- Delivery of liveborn baby: 183
- Delivery of stillborn baby: 2
- Termination of pregnancy: 2
- Ongoing or lost to follow-up: 58

Gestational age of liveborn babies (in weeks + days)*
- 22 + 0 to 27 + 6: 0
- 28 + 0 to 31 + 6: 2
- 32 + 0 to 36 + 6: 23
- ≥ 37 + 0: 158
- Not available: 3

Mode of delivery*
- Spontaneous vaginal delivery: 94
- Operative vaginal delivery: 11
- Primary cesarean section: 44
- Secondary cesarean section: 29
- Emergency cesarean section: 2
- Not available: 3

Neonatal outcome*
- Referral to neonatal intensive care unit (NICU): 25
- CPAP non-invasive ventilation: 7
- Intubation / invasive ventilation: 2
- SARS-CoV-2-PCR positive: 4

The rates refer to the entire CRONOS cohort and (*) live births, respectively.
CPAP, continuous positive airway pressure; ECMO, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation; ICU, intensive care unit; CI, confidence interval; NICU, neonatal intensive care unit; PCR, polymerase chain reaction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>[%]</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week of gestation when testing positive for SARS-CoV-2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 22 + 0</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>21.9 [17.2; 27.4]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 22 + 0 to 27 + 6</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10.5 [7.3; 15.0]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 + 0 to 31 + 6</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10.1 [7.0; 14.5]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 32 + 0 to 36 + 6</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>20.6 [16.1; 26.1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 37 + 0</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>33.6 [28.0; 39.7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3.2 [1.7; 6.3]</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptoms</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaise, chills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of sense of smell or taste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature &gt; 38 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sore throat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nasal congestion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dyspnea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myalgia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chest pain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Productive cough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nausea, vomiting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dizziness, drowsiness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not available</td>
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The table represents the characteristics and outcomes of mothers and babies infected with SARS-CoV-2.