

**Table 1 Demographic characteristics of mothers with neonates affected by neural tube defects (NTDs) and healthy controls**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Cases (n = 23)</b>	<b>Controls (n = 36)</b>	<b>P-value</b>
Maternal age [mean (SD) years]	26.9 (6.1)	25.6 (5.3)	0.38 <sup>a</sup>
Paternal age [mean (SD) years]	30.1 (6.1)	29.0 (6.1)	0.33 <sup>a</sup>
Multiparity [no. (%)]	4 (17.4)	6 (16.7)	0.48 <sup>b</sup>
Previous abortion [no. (%)]	5 (13.9)	3 (13.0)	0.62 <sup>b</sup>
History of births with NTD [no. (%)]	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	—
History of births with other congenital malformations [no. (%)]	4 (11.1)	1 (4.3)	0.35 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Student *t*-test; <sup>b</sup>Chi-squared test.