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Predictor of Lymphatic

Endometrial Carcinoma

Highlights

Propofol and Isoflurane

Gross Myometrial Invasion

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The Accuracy of Surgical Assessment of Gross Myometrial Invasion as a Predictor of Lymphatic Metastases in Women with Endometrial Carcinoma

By Andrew P. Soisson, Jessica Pittman, Mark K. Dodson, Tom Belnap,
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Abstract- Objective: The objective of this study was to determine if the surgeon can accurately predict the depth of myometrial tumor invasion in women with endometrial cancer, and if tumor invasion will correlate with node metastases.

Methods: We identified 1,943 women with endometrial carcinoma who underwent hysterectomy. Of these, 295 underwent comprehensive surgical staging including lymph node analysis. All subjects also underwent gross examination of the uterine specimen by their surgeon where the depth of myometrial invasion was recorded. Patients with grade III tumors or papillary serous and clear cell histology were excluded. The presence or absence of myometrial invasion was then correlated with the incidence of nodal involvement to determine if this system can be used to predict tumor spread at the time of hysterectomy.

Keywords: endometrial, cancer, depth of invasion.

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The Accuracy of Surgical Assessment of Gross Myometrial Invasion as a Predictor of Lymphatic Metastases in Women with Endometrial Carcinoma

Andrew P. Soisson ^α, Jessica Pittman ^σ, Mark K. Dodson ^ρ, Tom Belnap ^ω, Braydon Rowley [¥]
& William Sause [§]

Synopsis: In this study, low-grade tumors with less than 50% invasion by surgeon prediction were associated with a 3% incidence of nodal metastases.

Abstract- Objective: The objective of this study was to determine if the surgeon can accurately predict the depth of myometrial tumor invasion in women with endometrial cancer, and if tumor invasion will correlate with node metastases.

Methods: We identified 1,943 women with endometrial carcinoma who underwent hysterectomy. Of these, 295 underwent comprehensive surgical staging including lymph node analysis. All subjects also underwent gross examination of the uterine specimen by their surgeon where the depth of myometrial invasion was recorded. Patients with grade III tumors or papillary serous and clear cell histology were excluded. The presence or absence of myometrial invasion was then correlated with the incidence of nodal involvement to determine if this system can be used to predict tumor spread at the time of hysterectomy.

Results: The ability of the surgeon to accurately predict the depth of myometrial invasion was 82%, sensitivity was 57%, specificity 89%, positive predictive value 62% and the negative predictive value was 88%. If this system was used as the indication for nodal evaluation the authors would have missed 3% of women with nodal metastases who had less than 50% myometrial invasion.

Conclusions: Gross evaluation of the hysterectomy specimen can accurately predict depth of myometrial invasion. However, in our analysis 3% of women with less than 50% invasion had node involvement. If the surgeon had used the absence of myometrial invasion to omit nodal assessment, these lesions would have been missed. Therefore, we feel that nodal assessment should be considered in the majority of cases.

Keywords: endometrial, cancer, depth of invasion.

1. INTRODUCTION

Endometrial carcinoma is the 4th most common cancer in females and the most common gynecologic malignancy with approximately

43,470 cases and 7,950 deaths per year diagnosed in the United States¹. New diagnoses are rare before the age of 40 and increase ten-fold from ages 40-49. The vast majority of women with endometrial cancer are postmenopausal and the median age is 55^{2,3}. Most women with endometrial carcinoma develop postmenopausal vaginal bleeding that prompts them to seek medical attention. Diagnosis of the malignancy is usually made by endometrial biopsy or dilation and curettage of the uterine cavity. Therefore, over 80% of women with endometrial adenocarcinoma are diagnosed with early stage disease that ultimately equates to a high overall cure rate⁴. Treatment options for women with stage I or II endometrial carcinoma include anti-estrogen therapy, primary radiation, and most commonly hysterectomy. Anti-estrogen therapy (progesterone) is associated with low response rates in postmenopausal women, and radiation as a primary treatment is technically difficult in many cases and is used infrequently. Therefore, surgical treatment is the most common treatment modality and is associated with high cure and good local control rates.

Surgery usually includes complete hysterectomy, bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy, cytologic analysis of pelvic fluid for malignant cells, and retroperitoneal lymph node assessment for the presence or absence of lymphatic metastases. Despite the fact that lymph node assessment has not been shown to offer a therapeutic benefit^{5,6}, many believe it allows practitioners the opportunity to recommend more appropriate post-surgical adjunctive therapies, and the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists (SGO) recommends that it be performed in most cases⁷. However, not all surgeons have been trained to perform retroperitoneal lymph node assessment and the procedure is associated with some surgical morbidity and even mortality⁸. Thus, many surgeons utilize tumor grade and depth of myometrial invasion as clinical variables to predict the incidence of lymphatic metastases and therefore, an indication for lymph node assessment at the time of surgery. Myometrial invasion is a critical prognostic factor in women with low-risk factors such as

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grade I and II tumors and endometrial histology. Multiple reports have shown that the surgeon's ability to measure and predict the depth of symmetrical invasion is fairly accurate⁹⁻¹³, and is as good as pathologic examination by frozen section¹⁴⁻¹⁶. However, this surgical strategy has not been as extensively studied as a model to predict the true presence or absence of lymphatic metastases in a large cohort of women with endometrial cancer who have undergone complete surgical staging and who have had the uterus examined by the surgeon at the time of hysterectomy to measure the depth of myometrial invasion. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the accuracy of surgical prediction of myometrial invasion by endometrial tumor and to determine the accuracy of this method as a model for predicting lymph node involvement by tumor.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The state tumor registry was used to identify all women with endometrial cancer who underwent hysterectomy as their initial and primary treatment during the time period of the study. The authors created a surgical registry and abstracted the medical records, including surgical operative reports, anesthesia records, pathology reports and in-patient record of hospital stay. The collection of data and recruitment of patients for this study was approved by the institutional review board at our institution. From 1993 to 2010, 1,943 women were diagnosed with endometrial cancer and underwent hysterectomy as their primary treatment at one of 11 institutions in our geographical area. These included community and tertiary medical centers. Of these, 295 had examination under anesthesia, surgical evaluation of the pelvis and upper abdomen, oophorectomy, analysis of pelvic washings, pelvic retroperitoneal lymph node sampling, and evaluation of the uterine specimen for gross myometrial invasion by the surgeon. All cases were performed by one of three gynecologic oncologists at one of three tertiary medical centers who used the exact same methodology to evaluate the uterus and to predict the depth of tumor invasion. Only patients with endometrial histology and grade I or II tumors were included in the analysis as most gynecologic oncologists would routinely perform lymph node analysis in grade III or clear cell and papillary serous tumors.

Myometrial invasion was recorded as equal to or less than 50%, or greater than 50% invasion of the thickness of the myometrium at the maximal depth of penetration of the tumor. In each case after completing the surgical procedure, the surgeon would make a lateral incision at the 3' and 6" position of the uterine cervix and extend it to the fundus to expose the entire endometrial surface for gross examination. Lateral perpendicular full thickness incisions were then made through the endometrium and myometrium in at least two areas of the anterior and posterior surface of the

uterus to assess the depth of symmetrical invasion. Depth of invasion was recorded by the surgeon in the operative report and later abstracted into a surgical database.

III. RESULTS

The mean weight of the 295 study patients was 194 pounds and the mean body mass index was 32.3. One hundred and seven (36%) women in the study group had hypertension, 53 (18%) had adult onset diabetes mellitus (AODM), and 21 (7%) were cigarette smokers. One hundred fifty five women (52%) had grade I tumors and 140 (48%) were grade II. Women with poorly differentiated tumors (grade III) or unusual histology such as clear cell or papillary serous tumors were eliminated from the analysis. Two hundred sixty nine women (91%) had their ovaries removed at the time of surgery. All 295 women underwent hysterectomy, analysis of pelvic washings and pelvic lymph node sampling. The mean estimated blood loss was 316 ml. and 29 women underwent transfusion (10%) in the immediate postoperative period.

At the completion of the hysterectomy the primary surgeon examined the uterus and estimated the maximal depth of symmetrical invasion of the tumor. In 242 cases the surgeon accurately estimated the depth of invasion compared to histologic examination on permanent sections for an overall accuracy rate of 82%. There were 53 cases where the surgeon did not predict the true depth of symmetrical invasion. The sensitivity was calculated as 57%, specificity 89%, positive predictive value was 62%, and the negative predictive value was 88%.

The overall incidence of retroperitoneal lymph node metastases was 4% (n=12). In 62 cases the surgeon estimated that the depth of invasion was greater than 50% and of these 6 (10%) had nodal metastases and 56 (90%) had no evidence of nodal involvement by tumor. In 233 cases the surgeon estimated less than or equal to 50% symmetrical invasion and of these 6 (3%) had lymph node metastases and 227 (97%) were not involved with tumor.

IV. DISCUSSION

Extrauterine spread of tumor cells is the most significant poor prognostic factor associated with decreased survival in women with endometrial cancer. The most common anatomic site of metastatic disease is to the pelvic and para-aortic retroperitoneal lymph nodes. Approximately 7-10% of women with endometrial adenocarcinoma will have retroperitoneal lymph node metastases, and the presence or absence of nodal metastases will impact postoperative adjuvant therapy and subsequent cure rates⁴. The relatively high likelihood of nodal spread, the impact on recommending postoperative therapies, and the relatively low morbidity associated with node sampling has prompted

the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists to recommend that retroperitoneal node sampling be performed in most women with endometrial cancer⁷. Unfortunately, not all women with endometrial cancer undergo complete surgical staging or care by gynecologic oncologists in the United States. Gynecologists and surgeons in non-tertiary centers often employ preoperative and intra-operative strategies to assess the likelihood of nodal spread, which is used to determine if nodal sampling is performed at the time of hysterectomy^{17,18}.

Preoperative radiographic imaging modalities evaluating retroperitoneal metastases are limited, have not been sufficiently studied in large groups of women, and are largely inaccurate^{19,20}. Preoperative radiographic evaluation of myometrial invasion using ultrasonography (US), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and positron emission tomography (PET) are fairly comparable in their ability to accurately predict the depth of myometrial invasion. Multiple studies have demonstrated that US has an accuracy rate of approximately 65-75% and sensitivity and specificity of 70% for predicting depth of invasion compared to final histology²¹⁻²³. Transvaginal ultrasound employing saline infusion will increase the accuracy of myometrial invasion detection slightly²⁴. Magnetic resonance imaging is comparable with an accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity of 62-95%, 79-92%, and 72-100% respectively²⁵⁻²⁹. Finally, PET imaging appears to offer no increased accuracy compared to other radiographic modalities³⁰⁻³².

Estimation of myometrial invasion grossly by the surgeon at the time of hysterectomy has also been evaluated in multiple studies incorporating large numbers of women; these indicate that the accuracy rates, sensitivity, and specificity are comparable to or somewhat better than radiographic assessment. Reported rates for accuracy are 82-91%, sensitivity 65-84%, and specificity 83-96%^{9-11,33}. Estimation of depth of invasion at the time of the hysterectomy by frozen section is comparable in accuracy to gross inspection by the surgeon. Studies using frozen section only as a predictor of myometrial invasion have accuracy rates of 70-90%^{14,34-36}. Studies comparing frozen section to gross invasion in the same surgical setting show equivalent accuracy rates for the two methods^{37,38}. In our study we confirm the results of prior investigations and show that surgeon assessment of myometrial invasion of less than or greater than 50% of the thickness of the myometrium is fairly accurate. Our results of 82% accuracy compare favorably to other reports.

Surgical algorithms incorporating depth of myometrial invasion as a method to assess the likelihood of retroperitoneal lymph node metastases has been less well studied. Tumor size has been shown to be a predictor of metastatic disease since 1987³⁹ and was used as an intraoperative factor along with depth of

myometrial invasion by frozen section by Kumar and colleagues at the Mayo Clinic⁴⁰. We chose not to use tumor size as a factor since frozen section evaluation is not rapidly available at our institution. Multiple authors have shown that depth of invasion determined at the time of surgery by the surgeon or pathologist does not accurately predict the presence or absence of retroperitoneal lymph node involvement. These reports indicate that many patients undergo lymph node resection unnecessarily and, more importantly, some do not have node assessment when they should have. Traen⁴¹ reported on 72 women with grade I tumors who underwent complete surgical staging. In their analysis, 4% had lymph node assessment unnecessarily and 7% did not have nodal analysis when they should have. Papadia⁴² reviewed data from Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG) protocol 33 and analyzed 174 women with early stage endometrial cancer that were surgically staged. They concluded that a substantial number of cases had suboptimal management when gross inspection of the uterus and frozen section to determine the depth of myometrial invasion was used as a methodology for assessing lymph node status. In our analysis, we attempt to retrospectively evaluate a surgical system where depth of invasion is used at the time of hysterectomy to indicate whether node sampling should be performed in women with endometrioid histology and grade I or II tumors. In this system, the surgeon could accurately predict depth of invasion but 3% of the subjects would not have had node assessment performed when metastases to the retroperitoneum were present. Therefore, we recommend that lymph node assessment be performed in the majority of women undergoing hysterectomy for endometrial carcinoma as we believe the incidence of significant morbidity such as vascular injury⁴³ associated with lymph node sampling is far less significant than not detecting lymph node metastases.

V. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The authors declare there are no conflicts of interest.

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Abstract- Rocuronium is a neuromuscular blocker with potential to provide advantages in surgeries that require short-term muscular relaxation. A sample consisting of 20 female canines submitted to ovaryhysterectomy was randomly divided into two equally sized groups. All the animals received acepromazine (0,1 mg.kg⁻¹, IV), propofol (6,0 mg.kg⁻¹, IV) and maintenance with isoflurane. Rocuronium (0,1 mg.kg⁻¹, IV) was administered at the moment of the skin incision to the animals in the "rocuronium group" (GR). In the "control group" (GC), saline 0,9% was administered in equivalent volume of that used to rocuronium in double-blind study. Respiratory frequency (FR) and the minute-volume (VM) were measured before the beginning of the treatment (M0), 15 minutes after the administration of pre-anesthetic medication (M1), subsequent to induction (M2), and 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 minutes after the administration of rocuronium or saline.

Keywords: rocuronium, female canines, ovary hysteric tomy.

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Evaluation of Rocuronium Associated to Acepromazine, Propofol and Isoflurane in the Anesthesia of Female Canines Submitted to Elective Ovaryhysterectomy

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Abstract- Rocuronium is a neuromuscular blocker with potential to provide advantages in surgeries that require short-term muscular relaxation. A sample consisting of 20 female canines submitted to ovaryhysterectomy was randomly divided into two equally sized groups. All the animals received acepromazine (0,1 mg.kg⁻¹, IV), propofol (6,0 mg.kg⁻¹, IV) and maintenance with isoflurane. Rocuronium (0,1 mg.kg⁻¹, IV) was administered at the moment of the skin incision to the animals in the "rocuronium group" (GR). In the "control group" (GC), saline 0,9% was administered in equivalent volume of that used to rocuronium in double-blind study. Respiratory frequency (FR) and the minute-volume (V_M) were measured before the beginning of the treatment (M0), 15 minutes after the administration of pre-anesthetic medication (M1), subsequent to induction (M2), and 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 minutes after the administration of rocuronium or saline. The other variables were systolic blood pressure, heart rate and electrocardiography, measured at M0, M1, M2 and every 10 minutes from this last moment (M3, M4, M5 and M6). The collection of samples for blood gas analysis was performed at M0, M3 and M6. A questionnaire on the muscular relaxation was responded by the surgical staff right after the procedures. The results revealed that there were only a few alterations in the respiratory dynamics. A reduction on the V_M was noted 2 minutes from the administration of rocuronium in the GR group when compared to the GC group. Both protocols produced acidemia, respiratory acidosis and hyperchloremia. No significant alteration was noted in the circulatory dynamics. The muscular relaxation was considered superior in 80% of the animals in the group treated with rocuronium when compared to the non-treated group.

Index terms: rocuronium, female canines, ovary hysteric tomy.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Rocuronium bromide is a mono quaternary depolarizing muscle relaxant of intermediate-term action (Tranquili et al., 2007). Due to its low potency, rocuronium needs to be administered in high doses in order to achieve a sufficient number of molecules in the neuromuscular junction, setting its fast beginning of action (Hunter 1996, Tranquili et al., 2007). Rocuronium has minimum influence on the cardiovascular system and does not promote histamine release in horses, dogs, cats and humans (Xue et al., 1998, Neves, 2007). In high doses rocuronium may cause small increase in the heart rate and significant increase in blood pressure, probably by vagolytic action (Booij, 1997, Miranda et al., 2008). According to Dugdale et al. (2002), hypertension is transient and not followed by changes in heart frequency or rhythm.

This neuromuscular blocker presents good chemical stability and minimum liver biotransformation (McCoy et al., 1996). In men, rats and dogs, its inactive metabolite 17-deacetyl-rocuronium may be found in negligible amounts (Proost et al., 2000). This is probably an advantage over vecuronium, its precursor, which presents active metabolites that may contribute to the cumulative characteristics that follow clinical doses in healthy patients and in kidney insufficient patients. (Wright et al., 1994). The main elimination pathway is hepatic-biliary (Wierda & Proost, 1995) and occurs majorly in the first 24 hours, with 65% to 75% of the metabolites being eliminated in the feces and 9% to 25% in the urine (Proost et al., 2000).

Rocuronium has a specific cyclodextrin-based reverser, sugammadex, which favors its elimination through the kidney by making the drug more water soluble. The clearing time takes about two hours after its administration with no recurarization effect (Almeida & Locks, 2011).

The present experiment aimed to evaluate the utilization of a IV bolus 0,1 mg.Kg⁻¹ rocuronium dose as a muscle relaxant in elective ovaryhysterectomy

surgeries of female canines, in order to verify possible alterations over the respiratory and circulatory dynamics as well as the muscle relaxation effects, with the objective to help these proposed surgical techniques.

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

With the approval of the ethics committee of Viçosa Federal University (UFV) (process 09/2007), 20 female canines with indication to elective ovariectomy from the UFV Veterinary Hospital routine were selected, with the owner's consent, all of them included in anesthetic risk class I, according to the *American Society of Anesthesiologists* (Futema, 2002). The animals presented medium weight of $15 \pm 0,9$ kg and medium age of $4 \pm 1,12$ years. They were randomly distributed into two groups of 10 subjects. Complete physical examination, hemogram and biochemical profile were performed for all the animals in the pre-surgical period, in order to ensure their good state of health. Only healthy animals were used in this experiment.

After 6 hours of water abstinence and 12 hours of fasting, all the subjects received acepromazine (IV 0,1 mg.kg⁻¹) and 10 minutes from that point the cephalic vein was catheterized and anesthetic induction was performed using propofol 6,0 mg.kg⁻¹ IV along with

oro-tracheal intubation. Shortly after that, inhalatory anesthesia was initiated using isoflurane diluted in pure oxygen, in an anesthetic circuit with partial gas reinhalation with a calibrated vaporizer. The administered isoflurane concentration was the one necessary to maintain the anesthetic level compatible to the surgical procedure.

Immediately before the skin incision, the subjects in the GR group received rocuronium 0,1 mg.kg⁻¹ IV, while the subjects in the GC group received NaCl 0,9% solution in the same volume as the rocuronium solution.

The following variables were registered: respiratory frequency (FR), by the observation of the chest movement; minute-volume (V_M), by Wright's ventilometer¹; systolic blood pressure (SBP), by a non-invasive method using a vascular doppler²; heart rate (HR) using a oximeter³, with its sensor initially placed in the inguinal fold and in the tongue after anesthetic induction;

The electrocardiography, using a computer program in DII derivation⁴; arterial blood gasometry, performed in three samples collected from the femoral artery and measured by a portable blood gas analyzer⁵; blood electrolytes analysis (Cl^- , iCa_{i0} , Na^+ , K^+) by the colorimetric method⁶; and muscular relaxation by questionnaire (Fig. 1).

Did the anesthetic protocol used in this surgery somehow interfered in the surgical procedures? Chose the option(s) that better represent your opinion about it.

- () The muscular relaxation was equal to the commonly found in HOV anesthetic states for elective ovariectomy;
- () The muscular relaxation was higher than the commonly found in HOV anesthetic states for elective ovariectomy;
- () It was noted no difference regarding the easiness in exposing the suspensory ovaries ligaments;
- () It was noted higher easiness in exposing the suspensory ovaries ligaments.

Figure 1 : Questionnaire on the muscular relaxation applied to the surgical staff after the experimental period

The respiratory frequency (FR) and the minute-volume (V_M) were measured before MPA (M0), 15 minutes after MPA (M1), and 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 minutes after the administration of rocuronium or saline solution. The systolic blood pressure (SBP), heart rate (HR) and electrocardiography were measured before MPA (M0), 10 minutes after MPA (M1), after the setting of surgical anesthesia (M2), and, from that moment on, every 10 minutes (M3, M4, M5 e M6). A 40-minute fixed transoperative period was set for the surgeries. Blood samples were collected for gasometry at M0, M3 and M6. The anion gap ($Na^+ + K^+$)-(Cl⁻+HCO₃⁻) and the measurable strong ion quotient ($Na^+ + K^+$)-(Cl⁻) were obtained by calculation. After data collection was conducted statistical analysis, between groups was used for parametric analysis of variance

(ANOVA) data and non-parametric Wilcoxon test data. For comparison along time within each group was used for parametric data and the Tukey test for non-parametric data, the Dunn's test with $p < 0,05$. As for the muscular relaxation, descriptive analysis was performed.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The simultaneous evaluation of respiratory frequency (FR) and minute-volume (V_M) (Fig. 2) revealed similar responses in both GR and GC groups. After sedation with acepromazine, a significant decrease in these variables was noted due to the sensibility reduction of the chemoceptors in the carotid and aortic sheath and in the central nervous system facing the changes of carbon dioxide concentration in the blood (Cortopassi & Fantoni, 2002).

¹ Ferraris Mark 8 - Wright Ventilometer 100L.

² Portable Vascular Doppler - Medmega Industry and Medical Equipment Ltd.

³ NPB 290 - Nellcor Puritan Bennett Europe BU.

⁴ Computer ECG Acquisition Module - Brazilian Electronic Technology TEB.

⁵ Portable Clinical Blood Gas Analyzer I - STAT.

⁶ CELM E-225-D- Company for Modern Laboratory Equipment - São Paulo - Brazil.

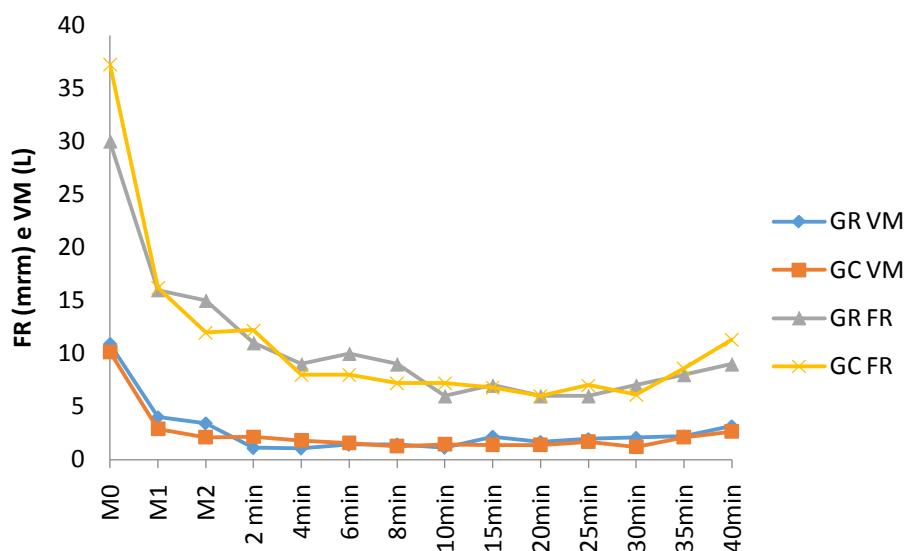


Figure 2: Representation of FR medium values (mrm) and V_M medium values (l) featured by anesthetized female dogs with acepromazine, propofol and isoflurane, treated with rocuronium (GR) or not (GC)

Medium values followed by equal capital letters in columns do not differ between them according to ANOVA or the non-parametric Wilcoxon test. Medium values followed by equal lowercase letters in lines do not differ between them according to Tukey's parametric test or the non-parametric Dunn's test ($p < 0,05$). *AG (Ánion gap); **DIFm (difference between measured strong ions).

After the administration of propofol and isoflurane for anesthetic maintenance, respectively, it was noted decrease in FR and V_M , in a dose-dependent manner, according to Short & Bufalari (1999) and Evers et al., (2006). A $0,1\text{mg}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ rocuronium dose did not promote respiratory arrest in any of the subjects in the GR group, nor significant reduction in FR. However, V_M was significantly and transiently affected in this group, only two minutes after the administration of rocuronium. This effect was no longer noted four minutes from the administration, demonstrating a slight reduction in intercostal muscles and/or diaphragm activities. This also demonstrates that other muscular groups were influenced by rocuronium as well, since respiratory arrest may happen when a neuromuscular blocker is administered, in a dose-dependent manner. There is a sequence of muscular paralysis beginning by facial and tail muscles, moving towards limbs and neck, followed by phonation and swallowing muscles, abdominal muscles, intercostals muscles and finally the diaphragm. Therefore, when diaphragm contraction ceases, it means that other muscular groups are under the effect of the muscular relaxant (Fuller, 2001).

The sequence of events in the recovery occurs in the reverse order of the neuromuscular blocking (Hall, 1971). Considering all that, our theory is that the dose utilized in this experiment is very close to the ideal one, if not actually ideal.

Systolic blood pressure behaved in the same manner for both groups (Tab.1). However, for the GR

group, it was noted a progressive reduction nonsignificant in this variable until M4, a point where reestablishment of the values start, which may be assigned to the potentiating effect of the neuromuscular blockers on other central depressing drugs (Duke, 1995, Sano et al., 2003). The medium values of the heart rate remained stable during the whole anesthetic period in both evaluated groups, demonstrating that the protocols used in this experiment did not promote any effects on this variable. According to Xue et al. (1998) and Neves (2007), rocuronium has minimum influence on the cardiovascular system and does not lead to histamine release, which causes vascular dilation and decrease in blood pressure. Changes in pressure lead to reflex tachycardia or rhythm alterations, which were not observed in this study. Some the subjects in both experimental groups showed sinus rhythm without electrocardiogram changes during the anesthetic period.



Table 1 : Medium values of systolic blood pressure (mmHg), heart rate (beat/min) pO₂ (mmHg), pCO₂ (mmHg), pH, cHCO₃⁻ (mmol/L), ctCO₂ (mmol/L), cBase (mmol/L), Cl (mEq/L), Na (mEq/L), K (mEq/L), iCa (mEq/L), anion gap (mEq/L) and difference between measured strong ions (mEq/L) featured by female dogs anesthetized with acepromazine, propofol and isoflurane, treated with rocuronium (GR) or not (GC)

Groups		M0	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
GR	PAS	129 ^{A,a}	107 ^{A,ab}	95 ^{A,bc}	77 ^{A,c}	74 ^{A,c}	83 ^{A,bc}	99 ^{A,bc}
GC	PAS	145 ^{A,a}	143 ^{A,a}	118,5 ^{A,ab}	111,5 ^{A,ab}	104,5 ^{A,ab}	99 ^{A,ab}	117 ^{A,ab}
GR	FC	115,5 ^{A,a}	103,2 ^{A,a}	114,1 ^{A,a}	103,8 ^{A,a}	102 ^{A,a}	105 ^{A,a}	108,3 ^{A,a}
GC	FC	136,7 ^{A,a}	103,3 ^{A,b}	117,6 ^{A,ab}	107 ^{A,ab}	102 ^{A,b}	94,4 ^{A,b}	109,7 ^{A,ab}
GR	SpO ₂	93,1 ^{A,bc}	92,8 ^{A,c}	96,4 ^{A,ab}	96,3 ^{A,ab}	97 ^{A,a}	97 ^{A,a}	97 ^{A,a}
GC	SpO ₂	92,8 ^{A,c}	93,4 ^{A,bc}	99 ^{A,a}	97 ^{A,ab}	97 ^{A,ab}	96,3 ^{A,bc}	95,7 ^{A,abc}
GR	pO _{2(a)}	84,5 ^{A,b}			437 ^{A,a}			325,8 ^{A,ab}
GC	pO _{2(a)}	74,3 ^{B,b}			387 ^{A,a}			367,4 ^{A,a}
GR	pCO ₂₎	31,03 ^{A,c}			79,8 ^{A,a}			63,83 ^{A,b}
GC	pCO ₂₎	31,06 ^{A,b}			69,1 ^{A,a}			66,43 ^{A,a}
GR	pH _(a)	7,39 ^{A,a}			7,1 ^{A,c}			7,17 ^{A,b}
GC	pH _(a)	7,39 ^{A,a}			7,14 ^{A,b}			7,17 ^{A,b}
GR	cHCO ₃ ⁻ _(a)	18,9 ^{A,b}			24,4 ^{A,a}			22,5 ^{A,a}
GC	cHCO ₃ ⁻ _(a)	18,9 ^{A,b}			23,2 ^{A,a}			21 ^{A,a}
GR	ctCO _{2(a)}	19,8 ^{A,b}			26,7 ^{A,a}			24,4 ^{A,a}
GC	ctCO _{2(a)}	19,9 ^{A,b}			25,4 ^{A,a}			23,1 ^{A,a}
GR	cBase _(a)	-6,1 ^{A,a}			-5,3 ^{A,a}			-6 ^{A,a}
GC	cBase _(a)	-6 ^{A,a}			-5,8 ^{A,a}			-6,7 ^{A,a}
GR	Cl ⁻	122,5 ^{A,a}			118 ^{A,a}			108,3 ^{A,a}
GC	Cl ⁻	117,4 ^{A,a}			127 ^{A,a}			125,4 ^{A,a}
GR	Na ⁺	143 ^{A,a}			141 ^{A,ab}			141 ^{A,b}
GC	Na ⁺	142 ^{A,a}			141 ^{A,a}			140 ^{A,a}
GR	K ⁺	3,82 ^{A,a}			3,88 ^{A,a}			3,91 ^{A,a}
GC	K ⁺	3,75 ^{A,a}			3,76 ^{A,a}			3,7 ^{A,a}
GR	iCa	1,33 ^{A,a}			1,33 ^{A,a}			1,24 ^{A,a}
GC	iCa	1,19 ^{A,a}			1,29 ^{A,a}			1,25 ^{A,a}
GR	*AG	5,21 ^{A,a}			2,22 ^{A,a}			13,66 ^{A,a}
GC	*AG	9,86 ^{A,a}			5,79 ^{A,b}			-0,51 ^{A,ab}
GR	**DIFm	24,12 ^{A,a}			26,6 ^{A,a}			36,22 ^{A,a}
GC	**DIFm	28,73 ^{A,a}			17,3 ^{A,a}			20,72 ^{A,a}

Medium values followed by equal capital letters in columns do not differ between them according to ANOVA or the non-parametric Wilcoxon test. Medium values followed by equal lowercase letters in lines do not differ between them according to Tukey's parametric test or the non-parametric Dunn's test ($p < 0,05$). *AG (Anion gap); **DIFm (difference between measured strong ions).

Evaluation of the acid-base profile revealed that pCO_{2(a)} values were not significantly different in both groups during the whole experimental period, but it was noted an increase between M0 and M3 in both groups, stating post-induction respiratory acidosis. It is known that propofol and isoflurane promote respiratory depression that leads to heart rate decrease and hypoventilation, as previously seen. By its turn there may be pCO_{2(a)} increase (Ferro et al., 2005), an independent respiratory variable.

The analysis of pH_(a) medium values indicate acidosis, once this is a dependent variable that may be altered by base concentration (metabolic component) and by pCO_{2(a)} (respiratory component), being inversely proportional to this last one. Since all animals in GR and

GC group showed respiratory acidosis and no alterations in base concentrations it is possible to allege that the main factor was the pCO_{2(a)} increase, corroborating Ferro et al., (2007).

Increase in pCO_{2(a)} lead to rising bicarbonate levels, since they are interdependent. Each 10mmHg increase in pCO_{2(a)} is equivalent to an increase of 1,5mEq.L⁻¹ in bicarbonate levels (Tab.1). The CO₂ concentration behaved in the same manner as bicarbonate, since it maintained 1 to 2 mEq.L⁻¹ higher than bicarbonate (it also represents the CO₂ concentration dissolved in plasma) (DiBartola, 2006; Tranquili et al., 2007). While CO₂ chemical metabolites elimination processes take place in the organism, CO₂ associates to water (H₂O) and forms carbonic acid

(H₂CO₃), which, by its turn, will form HCO₃⁻ and H⁺ ions, this last one's production higher since carbonic acid is weak and suffers low dissociation in bicarbonate. In addition, according to DiBartola (2006), pCO_{2(a)} increase may be responsible for 50% of the blood bicarbonate level variation. Lately, the reason for this increase will be due to an attempt of kidney adaptation and respiratory acidosis, since kidneys control H⁺ ions concentration in the organism excreting either acid or basic urine (DiBartola 2006).

The ions showed physiological medium values and did not differ between them (Tranquili et al., 2007), except by chloride, which presented itself elevated indicating hyperchloremia. It is suggested that the NaCl 0,9 % may have caused this effect (DiBartola 2006). The alterations were transient and similar in both groups, and did not influence in the recovery/deambulation of the subjects.

The response to the questionnaire on the muscular relaxation revealed that 80% of the animals treated with rocuronium showed appropriate relaxation and easiness in the maneuvers to expose the viscera, meanwhile, in the control group, this response was achieved in only 30% of the subjects.

From these observations, we are able to imply that abdominal musculature presented itself easy to manipulate, confirming the benefits mentioned by Hall (1971), who stated that the use of small doses of muscular relaxant might favor several surgical procedures in superficial anesthetic level.

IV. CONCLUSION

The administration of a 0,1 mg.kg⁻¹ rocuronium dose led to little alteration in the respiratory dynamics as well as to increase in the muscular relaxation level, thus presenting important benefits to surgical performance. Both utilized anesthetic protocols did not promote significant changes in heart rate, systolic blood pressure and electrocardiogram. Also both protocols promoted acidemia, respiratory acidosis and transient hyperchloremia, with no prejudice to anesthetic recovery.

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Effects of Adding Human Follicular Fluid and Pentoxifylline on IUI Outcome of Asthenozoospermic Patients

By Saad S. Al-Dujaily, Sabah M. Hussein & Sahar S. Raheem
University of Baghdad, Iraq

Abstract- Background: Although there are many motility stimulants have been found to play an important role in improving the active sperm motility and morphologically normal sperm (MNS) percentages when added in vitro with the culture medium for semen, the results of pregnancy rate following intra-uterine insemination (IUI) still not exceed 20%.

Objective: This study is a trial to improve the results of pregnancy rate following IUI by adding the follicular fluid (FF), and pentoxifylline (PX) to the culture medium used for preparation of asthenozoospermic semen samples.

Subjects, Material and methods: Ninety five infertile couples were involved in the current study (asthenozoospermic male partners with intact spouses) divided into three groups according to the sperm stimulants which were used for in vitro sperm activation followed by intrauterine insemination technique. Group one was FF-treated semen samples and consists of 40 couples, group two was FF+PX-treated semen samples and consists of 25 couples and lastly, group three was Ham's F-12 culture medium as a control group and consists of 30 couples. All the couples were followed up for determining outcome of pregnancy after IUI was done.

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Effects of Adding Human Follicular Fluid and Pentoxifylline on IUI Outcome of Asthenozoospermic Patients

Saad S. Al-Dujaily^α, Sabah M. Hussein^σ & Sahar S. Raheem^ρ

Abstract- Background: Although there are many motility stimulants have been found to play an important role in improving the active sperm motility and morphologically normal sperm (MNS) percentages when added *in vitro* with the culture medium for semen, the results of pregnancy rate following intra-uterine insemination (IUI) still not exceed 20%.

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Results: Out of the all 95 couples, 22 pregnancies (23.15%) were resulted following IUI. The best results were obtained by group one (FF treated group) in which out of 40 cases enrolled in this group, 12 pregnancies (30%) were resulted following IUI. Regarding group two (FF+PX treated group), out of 25 cases enrolled in this group, 5 women (20%) were pregnant following IUI. Regarding group three (Ham's F-12 treated group), out of 30 cases enrolled in this group, 5 women (16.67%) were pregnant following IUI.

Conclusion: Adding FF to culture media for *in vitro* sperm activation was associated with a higher pregnancy rate following IUI than other treated culture media.

I. INTRODUCTION

Infertility is the inability of a sexually active non-contraceptive couple to achieve pregnancy through one year⁽¹⁾. It is a relatively common condition affecting approximately one in ten of the population. Infertility is either primary, when no pregnancy has ever occurred, or secondary, where there has been a pregnancy, regardless of the outcome. About 67 – 71%

and 29 – 33% of patients have primary and secondary infertility, respectively⁽²⁾. In half of these cases, a male factor is involved, making defective sperm function the largest single, defined cause of human infertility⁽³⁾. Asthenozoospermia is one of the major causes of infertility or reduced fertility in men⁽⁴⁾.

In vitro studies in human showed that spermatozoal accumulation into follicular fluid (FF) is significantly higher than into simple medium and that chemoattractant effect of fluid from an individual follicle correlates with the fertilizability of the egg from the same follicle^(5,6).

Follicular fluid can also alter the physiology and behavior of spermatozoa by accelerating capacitation of the cell to induce sperm motility, increasing AR and signaling interaction between sperm and oocyte during fertilization. This is due to FF components which are a low molecular hydrophobic compounds, platelet activating factor and progesterone^(7,8).

On the other hand, certain metabolic stimulants induce sperm capacitation and AR via changes in the values of cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP) and intracellular calcium ([Ca²⁺]_i). Examples of these stimulators are pentoxifylline (PX) and L-carnitine (LC)⁽⁹⁾.

Pentoxifylline is a methylxanthine derivative which inhibits phosphodiesterase, thereby elevating the concentrations of intracellular cAMP and/or cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP). It is used in ART to enhance the function of inherently poor quality spermatozoa from oligoasthenozoospermic patients⁽¹⁰⁾. Other study does not suggest any increase in teratogenicity or evidence of congenital malformations in pregnancies following the using of PX in the media of IVF cycles⁽⁹⁾.

The Artificial Insemination (AI) is the first option treatment for infertile couples with cervical factor subfertility, mild to moderate male subfertility and unexplained infertility⁽¹¹⁾. IUI, with or without controlled ovarian hyperstimulation, is one of the treatment modalities offered most often to subfertile couples because it is less stressful, invasive and expensive than other interventions such as *in vitro* fertilization and gamete intrafallopian transfer⁽¹²⁻¹³⁾. The goal of the present proposal is to examine the effects of adding human FF alone or in combination with PX on the

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medium prepared for *in vitro* sperm activation in intrauterine insemination (IUI) outcome.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was conducted at the High Institute for Infertility Diagnosis and Assisted Reproductive Technologies, Al-Nahrain University through the period from September 2012 to June 2013.

Clinical examination was performed by a Consultant Urologist in charge of Male Infertility Unit in the Institute including presence or absence of varicocele, cryptorchidism, hydrocele, hernia and others. Alcohol consumption and smoking habits were also reported. Those patients were classified into three subgroups according to WHO criteria of seminal fluid analysis⁽¹⁾. In this study ninety five infertile couples (asthenozoospermic male partners with intact spouses) divided into three groups according to the sperm stimulants which were used for *in vitro* sperm activation followed by intrauterine insemination techniques:

1. Group I: FF-treated semen samples. Include 40 couples.
2. Group II: FF and PX-treated semen samples. Include 25 couples.
3. Group III: Ham's F-12 culture medium as control group. Include 30 couples.

a) Preparation of follicular fluid for *in vitro* sperm activation

Patients underwent oocyte retrieval 36 hr after hCG administration by transvaginal ultrasound guided follicular aspiration. The first aspirated follicle was usually the one with the largest diameter, and the first follicle allowed the collection of fluid without contamination of flushing medium. Specimens that were contaminated with blood were discarded. After removal of potential oocytes for treatment, the fluid was centrifuged ($500 \times g$) to eliminate granulosa cells and to monitor the contamination of red blood cells and the clear supernatant was divided into aliquots and frozen at $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ⁽¹⁴⁾. The frozen samples were thawed and analyzed⁽¹⁵⁾. Solution of 20% hFF was prepared by the addition of 0.2 ml of hFF to 0.8 ml of Ham's F-12 medium.

b) Investigations to assess the female reproductive status

Physical examination was done following the case history. The investigations were performed to assess the normal menstruation and ovulation. Hormonal assay was done to the female namely; early follicular estradiol (E_2), FSH and LH level with serial vaginal ultra-sonographic examination for monitoring of follicular development and endometrial thickness. Their tubal patency were checked from the previous cycles by hysterosalpingography.

c) Intra-Uterine Insemination Technique

IUI was performed when 0.5 – 0.75 ml of prepared semen was aspirated into 1 ml syringe attached to endo-cervical IUI catheter (Gynetics, Belgium). In IUI room, the spouse was prepared for insemination in lithotomic position. Non lubricated Cusco's speculum was placed in the vagina to visualize the uterine cervix^(16,17). The specimen was slowly ejected from the syringe with gentle grasping of the cervical lips to prevent escape of the solution out of the cervix then after few minutes the catheter was removed slowly. The patient remains on supine position for 30 minutes then she allowed leaving the theater. Following the day of insemination the patient instructed to take progesterone tablets (Duphaston® 10 mg/day) for two weeks as a luteal phase support. No use of antibiotic as it was detected that incidence of pelvic infection following IUI has been estimated to be less than 0.5%⁽¹⁷⁾. The diagnosis of pregnancy was done either by biochemical analysis (the detection of βhCG in blood after two weeks of insemination) or by sonographic examination to assess the pregnancy status

d) Statistical analysis

The data of this study was analyzed by using SPSS (Statistical package for social sciences) versions 16 and Microsoft excel 2013. Numeric variables were expressed as mean \pm SEM whereas nominal variables were expressed as numbers and percentage. The analysis was done by using one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) to compare among different groups of *in vitro* sperm activation techniques. Also, descriptive analysis was done by using Chi-square depending on the nature of the data. Differences between values of means were considered statistically significant at ($P < 0.05$)⁽¹⁸⁾.

III. RESULTS

a) Comparison of certain sperm function parameters after activation among IUI groups

In Table 1, there was no significant ($P > 0.05$) difference in the mean of sperm concentration, active sperm motility (grade A, B and A+B) and the percentage of MNS between semen samples activated *in vitro* by Ham's F12 medium only (control) and other treated media.

Table 1 : Comparison of certain sperm function parameters among IUI groups following *in vitro* activation

Certain sperm function Parameters		Group1 IUI-FF-treated group (n=40)		Group 2 IUI-PX+FF-treated group (n=25)		Group 3 IUI-Hams.F-12 treated group (n=30)		P value
Sperm Concentration (X10 ⁶ /ml)		18.00	1.70	24.08	2.85	23.67	2.94	0.121
Active sperm motility (%)	Grade A	25.63	2.70	27.20	3.47	25.93	3.33	0.937
	Grade B	50.25	2.73	50.40	2.94	44.83	3.75	0.381
	Grade A+B	75.63	2.47	77.60	3.54	70.77	4.56	0.399
Morphologically normal sperm (%)		60.38	2.14	57.20	2.62	60.20	3.96	0.721

Values are expressed as mean ± SE. ANOVA Test
 PX: pentoxifylline
 FF: follicular fluid

b) The results of pregnancy rate after *in vitro* sperm activation

Tables 2 and 3 reveal the effect of three different sperms stimulants (FF, FF+PX and Ham's F-12) on pregnancy rate and percentage (%) following IUI. Out of the all 95 couples, 22 pregnancies (23.15%) were resulted following IUI. The best results were obtained by group 1(FF treated group) in which out of 40 cases enrolled in this group, 12 pregnancies (30%) were resulted following IUI. Regarding group 2 (FF+PX

treated group),out of 25 cases enrolled in this group, 5 women (20%) were conceived following IUI. Regarding group 3 (Ham's F-12 treated group), out of 30 cases enrolled in this group, 5 women (16.67%) were conceived following IUI.

There was a significant (P<0.05) difference in the rate of pregnancy between group 1 and group 2 (table 4-21), while there was no statistically significant (P>0.05) difference in the rate of pregnancy between group 1 and 3.

Table 2 : Comparison of pregnancy rate following IUI after *in vitro* sperm activation between group 1 and group 2

Status of pregnancy		Pregnancy Rate			
		Group 1 (FF treated)		Group 2 (FF+PX treated)	
		No.	%	No.	%
Pregnant	Yes	12	30	5	20
	No	28	70	20	80
	Total	40	100	25	100
X ² = 9.474					
DF = 1 P < 0.05					

Table 3 : Comparison of pregnancy rate following IUI after *in vitro* sperm activation between group 1 and group 3

Status of Pregnancy		Pregnancy rate			
		Group 1 (FF treated)		Group 3(Ham's F-12 treated)	
		No.	%	No.	%
Pregnancy	Yes	12	30	5	16.67
	No	28	70	25	83.33
	Total	40	100	30	100
X ² = 1.656					
DF = 1 P > 0.05					

IV. DISCUSSION

The current study demonstrates that IUI by a sperm washed *in vitro* using a medium supplemented with FF results in a higher pregnancy rates per cycle (30%) in asthenozoospermic patients than by using Ham's F-12 medium alone (16.6%) even the results of certain sperm function parameters after *in vitro* preparation did not reveal any significant between them. This finding can be explained by the fact that the extent of hyperactivated motility produced by FF is positively correlated with the extent of zona binding, the acrosome reaction, zona-free oocyte penetration and fertilizing capacity *in vitro*⁽¹⁹⁾. Additionally, human FF is an efficient capacitating agent and only the capacitated sperm are able to migrate towards the ovum site, under thermotaxis and chemotaxis stimuli^(20,21).

It has been reported that FF may modulate spermatozoa function to be indicative of pregnancy outcome⁽²²⁾, this fact can verify and confirms the original results.

The contents of FF also play a crucial role in the pregnancy outcome. A lower activity of the conversion enzymes, ovarian 11 beta hydroxy steroid dehydrogenase (HSD11 β) which is found in FF interconverts 'active' cortisol to 'inert' cortisone, have been associated with positive pregnancy outcomes for patients undergoing ART⁽²³⁾.

In this study, there was a significant ($P < 0.05$) difference in the rate of pregnancy between IUI- FF treated group (pregnancy rate was 30%) and IUI-FF+PX treated group (pregnancy rate was 20%). This finding suggests that IUI following *in vitro* sperm activation by FF containing culture media is associated with a higher pregnancy outcome than FF+PX containing media. Moreover, the proper time of IUI that performed enclosed with ovulation time can lead to increase in pregnancy rates, and is best seen in patients with pure andrological indication. At the same time, careful selection of patients might play part in achieving success with IUI. Furthermore, the use of fertility drugs like gonadotropins in the controlled ovarian stimulation followed by IUI provide better pregnancy rate⁽²⁴⁾ than the using of other ovarian stimulants.

The current study found that pregnancy rate of IUI following FF+PX (20%) was approximately similar to the results of Al-Dujaily *et al* (20.8%) using PX alone⁽²⁵⁾. Both results had no significant different in pregnancy outcome than the pregnancy outcome following *in vitro* sperm activation with FF alone. This suggest that there is no further advantage to add PX to FF-containing culture media for the enhancement of active sperm motility, morphologically normal sperm percentages or pregnancy rate following IUI.

Thus the present study concluded that adding the FF to medium used for IUI can enhance the results of pregnancy rate of infertile couples.

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Correlation of Pap Smear with Histopathological Findings in Malignant and non Malignant Lesions of Cervix

By Dr. Vijay Kumar Bodal, Dr. Rupinder Kaur Brar, Dr. Manjit Singh Bal,
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Government Medical College Patiala, India

Abstract- Background: Conventional cervical cytology is the most widely used cervical cancer screening test in the world. Squamous intraepithelial neoplasia (SIL) and cervical cancer remain important health problems for women worldwide.

Aim and Objective: To study various types of cervical lesions with relevant factors such as age, parity, to classify cervical lesions into malignant & benign groups and to correlate the cytological with histopathological findings.

Materials and Methods: This study was conducted on 200 cases of Pap smears and cervical biopsies, along with resected specimens. After fixation and staining, smears and cervical biopsies were processed and examined under microscope.

Keywords: *malignant, cervical cancer, pap smear, cervical biopsy.*

GJMR-E Classification : *NLMC Code: WP 475*



CORRELATION OF PAPSMEAR WITH HISTOPATHOLOGICAL FINDINGS IN MALIGNANT AND NONMALIGNANT LESIONS OF CERVIX

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Correlation of Pap Smear with Histopathological Findings in Malignant and non Malignant Lesions of Cervix

Dr. Vijay Kumar Bodal ^α, Dr. Rupinder Kaur Brar ^σ, Dr. Manjit Singh Bal ^ρ, Dr. Balwinder kaur ^ω,
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Results: Age wise maximum number of patients were in fourth decade (54.50%), followed by fifth decade. On cytology, 59% were inflammatory smears and frank malignancy was reported in 10% cases. LSIL and HSIL were reported in 9% and 8.50% respectively. Maximum number of cases on biopsy was those of infections (57.50%), 27% cases were those of frank malignancy; most common being invasive squamous cell carcinoma (23%) and adenocarcinoma in 2%. Mean age among cancer cases was high (51.94±12.30 years) compared to those who did not have cervical cancer (39.53±9.66 years). Cervical cancer was seen in 39.65% of patients with having ≥3 children. 10% cases diagnosed on cytology turned out to be malignant on biopsy.

Conclusion: Pap smear followed by cervical biopsy is an effective method for detection of pre-cancerous, cancerous and non-cancerous changes in the cervix.

Keywords: malignant, cervical cancer, pap smear, cervical biopsy.

I. INTRODUCTION

Papanicolaou (Pap) smear is a simple, safe, non-invasive and effective method for detection of pre-cancerous, cancerous and non-cancerous changes in the cervix.^[1] Conventional cervical cytology is the most widely used cervical cancer screening test in the world and cytology screening programmes in several developed countries have been associated with impressive reduction in cervical cancer burden.^[2] Squamous intraepithelial lesions are viewed as precancerous lesions exhibiting many of the morpho-

logical characteristics of invasive carcinomas. Identification of these entities is the focus of cervical screening programs that aim to discover them and commence their treatment in order to prevent invasive disease.^[3] Though data from the 20 populations based cancer registries in India indicate a steady decline in cervical cancer incidence rates over the last two decades, it still occupies second position and the risk of disease is still high.^[3] Cervical carcinoma documents the remarkable effects of screening, early diagnosis, and curative therapy on the mortality rate. Death rate has declined for which the credit goes to Pap test and accessibility of cervix to colposcopy and biopsy. Though, the Pap smear is an effective screening test, yet confirmation of the diagnosis of cervical cancer or pre invasive lesions of cancer requires a biopsy of the cervix.

II. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of this study were to study the changes in cervical cytology with relation to age, parity and other presenting features, to classify cervical lesions into malignant and benign groups on cytological and histopathological basis and to correlate the changes observed in cervical cytology with cervical biopsy.

III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was done on 200 cases of Pap smears and cervical biopsies (including hysterectomy specimens). Most of the patients with symptoms suggestive of cervical disease were selected. However, some having gynaecological symptoms other than cervical disease were also included. Few cases reporting for routine screening were also included. A detailed clinical history especially age, duration of symptoms, parity, menstrual pattern and vaginal discharge were noted. The patients in whom both Pap smear and biopsy was available, were included in the study. The fixed cervical smears were subjected to staining according to Papanicolaou's method. The cytological interpretation of the smears was made according to the New 2001 Bethesda system. After grossing and processing, cervical biopsies were subjected to histopathological examination.

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IV. RESULTS

Age wise maximum number of patients were in fourth decade (54.50%), followed by fifth decade (Table-1). Duration of symptoms varied from few months to many years. Some patients presented within 1 year (79%), but few mainly cases with discharge and history of prolapse presented late (Table-2). In 200 cases, various symptoms were seen, some patients showed multiple symptoms. Majority of patients (58%) presented with vaginal discharge followed by irregular bleeding (47%). Menstrual changes were also seen in large number of patients. There was seen low usage of oral contraceptive pills in our study group (10.50%). Duration of OCP usage varied from few months to years, but long term usage was not seen in any case. On cytology, 59% were inflammatory smears and frank malignancy was reported in 10% cases, LSIL and HSIL was reported in 9% and 8.50% respectively (Table-3). Maximum number of cases on biopsy were those of infections (57.50%), among them majority had non-specific chronic cervicitis. Squamous intraepithelial lesions were seen in 25

patients. Mild dysplasias correspond to low grade squamous intraepithelial lesions, moderate and severe to high grade intraepithelial lesions. 54 cases (27%) were those of frank malignancy on biopsy (Table-4); most common diagnosis being invasive squamous cell carcinoma (23%) and adenocarcinoma in 4 cases (2%). Distribution of age was correlated with cancer cases. Most of the cancer cases were seen in the age group of 31- 45 years. The mean age among cancer cases was high (51.94 ± 12.30 years) and (39.53 ± 9.66 years) in cases who did not have cervical cancer (Table-6). Cervical cancer was seen in 39.65% of patients with ≥ 3 children. History of oral contraceptive use was present in 21(10.50%) women. Of which 14.29% had cervical cancer and 85.71 % did not have cervical cancer, showing poor correlation between oral contraceptive use and cervical cancer ($p = 0.165$). 20 cases diagnosed on cytology turned out to be malignant on biopsy showing strong correlation between cytology and histopathology ($p < 0.001$). Some of the cases were obscured by blood and inflammation which were missed on cytology but proved to be malignant on biopsy.

Table 1 : showing age distribution of cervical lesions

Age group (Years)	Distribution (n=200)	
	No.	%age
18-30	29	14.50
31-45	109	54.50
46-60	41	20.50
> 60	21	10.50
Total	200	100

Table 2 : showing duration of symptoms

Duration (Years)	Distribution (n=200)	
	No.	%age
Up to 1	158	79.00
1-3	25	12.50
4-6	11	05.50
>6	06	03.00
Total	200	100

Table 3 : showing cytological diagnosis

Diagnosis	Distribution (n=200)	
	No.	%age
Unsatisfactory smear	08	4.00
Inflammatory	118	59.00
ASCUS/H	19	9.50
LSIL	18	9.00
HSIL	17	8.50
Frank malignancy	20	10.00
Total	200	100

Table 4 : showing histopathological diagnosis

Diagnosis	Distribution (n=200)	
	No.	%age
Infections	115	57.50
Carcinoma	54	27.00
Dysplasia	25	12.50
Benign tumors	06	03.00
Total	200	100

Table 5 : Showing correlation of cytological and histopathological Diagnosis

Histopathological Diagnosis	No.	Cytological Diagnosis					
		Unsatisfactory	Inflammatory	ASCUS/H	LSIL	HSIL	Ca
Infections	115	-	108	07	-	-	-
Carcinoma	54	08	-	-	12	14	20
Dysplasia	25	-	04	12	06	03	-
Benign tumors	06	-	06	-	-	-	-
Total	200	08	118	19	18	17	20

Table 6 : showing means age

Variable	Cervical Ca (n=54)		No Ca (n=146)	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Mean	51.94	12.30	39.53	09.66
T	7.469			
Df	198			
P	< 0.001			
Significance	Highly Significant			

V. DISCUSSION

Cancer cervix is considered to be an ideal gynaecological malignancy for screening as it meets both test and disease criteria for screening. It has a long latent phase during which it can be detected as identifiable and treatable premalignant lesions which precede the invasive disease and the benefit of conducting screening for carcinoma cervix exceeds the cost involved.^[4]

Despite the success of cervical cancer screening programs, questions remain about the appropriate time to begin and end screening. This review explores epidemiologic and contextual data on cervical cancer screening to inform decisions about when screening should begin and end. The incidence and mortality rates from cervical cancer that have had a Pap smear within 3 years have decreased since 2000.

In this study, more than half (54.50%) were aged between 31 to 45 years followed by 20.50% between 46 to 60 years. The mean age of patients with cancer in the present study was 51.94 years. This is close to that found by Biswas et al^[5] and Missaoui et al.^[6] Although, invasive cancer cervix is reported at all

ages; it has two peaks, one at about 35 years and another above 50 years. The highest age of cervical cancer in the present study was 73 years and the lowest was 26 years. The mean age for non-cancer cases was 39.53 years. In this study, the most common symptoms was discharge per vaginum (58%) followed by irregular bleeding in 47% of the patients. Patients with cancer also presented with post-coital bleeding and in cases of older age group post menopausal bleeding was seen. Symptomatic presentation was similar to some extent as seen by Ikram et al^[7].

In this study, 59% patients had the cytological diagnosis of benign/ inflammatory and carcinoma was present in 10% of the cases. This is comparable to Saha and Thapa^[8] in which benign cases were 51.16% and carcinoma was diagnosed in 6.97% of the cases. Most common cancer in the present study was squamous cell carcinoma (85.18%). This study showed results similar to those seen by Ikram et al^[7] (83.33%).

As regards the various histopathological varieties of SCC, the present study found an incidence of 67.39% for moderately differentiated SCC, 23.91% for well differentiated, 8.70% for poorly differentiated. Thus, the findings of the present study are consistent with that

of Missaoui et al ^[6] in that moderately differentiated large cell non-keratinizing variety is the commonest variety.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

It is concluded that most commonly seen problem, infection, can be controlled with good hygiene. Cervical carcinoma is seen in large number of patients. Pap is a relatively less invasive and a simple procedure to diagnose cervical lesions in developing countries. But sometimes, there can be obscuring of the cellular details by blood, especially in malignant cases. In such cases, biopsy is helpful and confirmatory.

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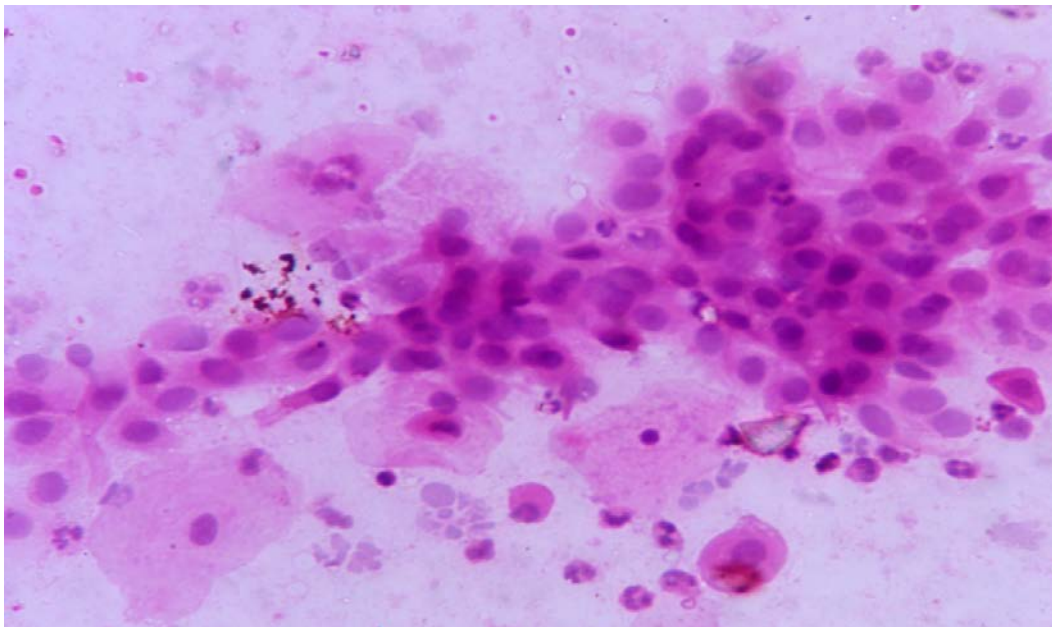


Figure 1 : Photomicrograph of **HSIL** showing group of hyperchromatic parabasal cells exhibiting nucleomegaly and overlapping nuclei (PAP X 400)

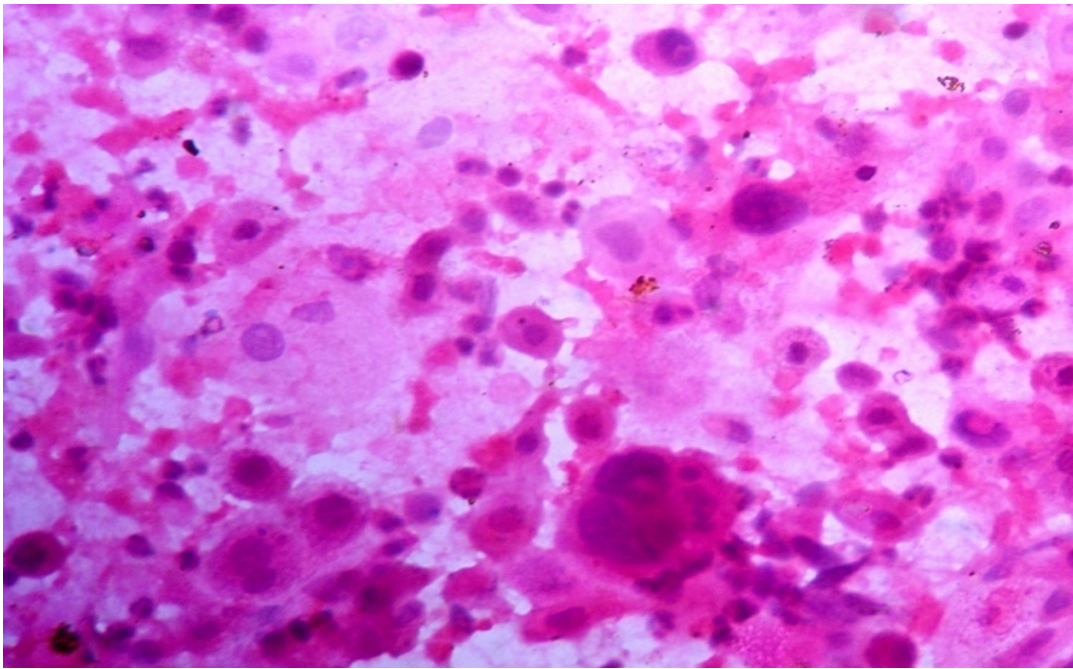


Figure 2 : Photomicrograph of **Squamous cell carcinoma** showing tumour diathesis, malignant cells with nucleomegaly, hyperchromatism and irregular nuclear margins (PAP X 400)

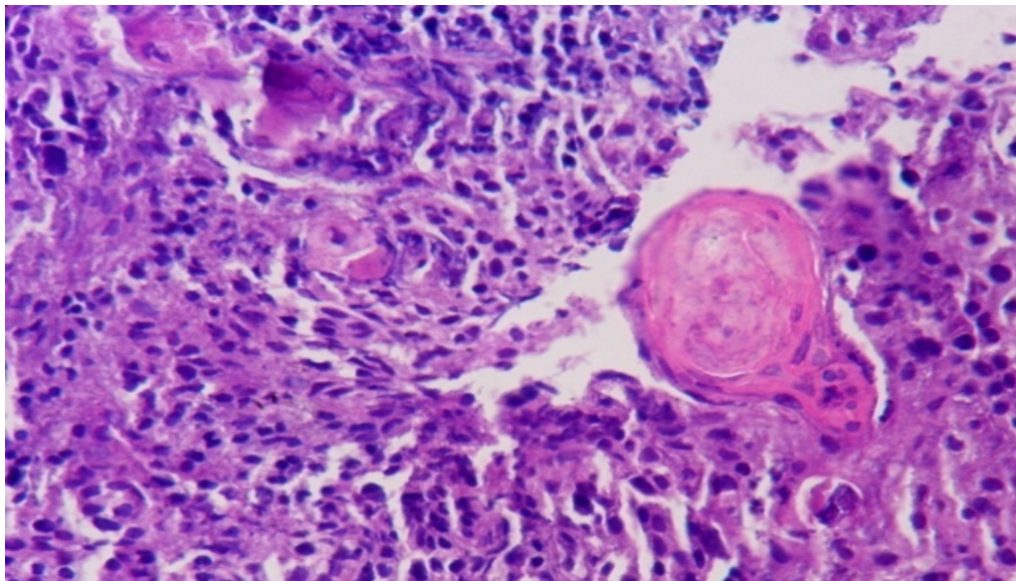


Figure 3 : Photomicrograph of **Well differentiated SCC** (H & E X 400)

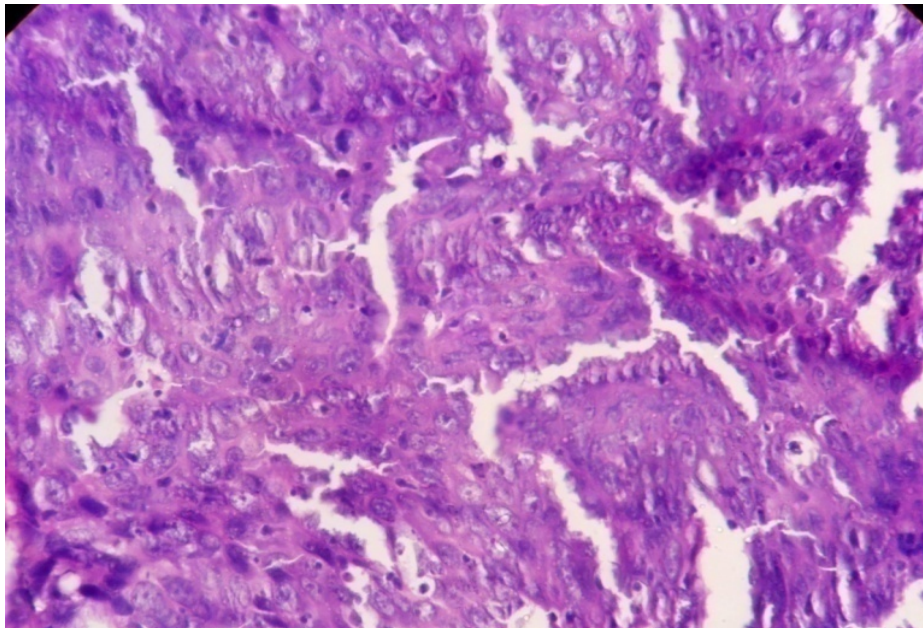


Figure 4 : Photomicrograph of **moderately differentiated SCC** (H & E X 400)



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Lipid Profile and Urinary Protein-Creatinine Ratio Changes in Pre-Eclampsia Cases in and around Chitradurga

By Gaurang K. Anandpara & Dinesh Javarappa

Abstract- Pre-eclampsia is defined by the new onset of elevated blood pressure and proteinuria after 20 weeks of gestation. According to current studies dyslipidemia, particularly the rise in serum triglycerides is a contributing factor in pre-eclampsia. There is a positive correlation between serum triglycerides and systolic blood pressure in pre-eclampsia cases. Urinary protein-creatinine ratio has been used to evaluate proteinuria in pre-eclampsia, this parameter is sensitive and predictive as well. The presence of proteinuria is seen as a possible indication of many complications in pregnancy, from urinary tract infection to chronic renal disease and it remains central to the diagnosis of pre-eclampsia in a hypertensive pregnancy. It has both diagnostic and prognostic implications. Extensive changes occur in the renal system in pre-eclampsia. As a part of the end organ pathology pre-eclamptic glomeruli undergo structural changes with pronounced endothelial vacuolization and hypertrophy of the cytoplasmic organelles, first defined as glomerular endotheliosis.

A case control comparative study was done with preeclampsia and normal pregnant women. Both for out door patient and indoor patients of Basaveshwara Medical College Hospital & RC, Chitradurga according to the criteria.

Keywords: preeclampsia, urinary protein, urinary creatinine, urinary protein: creatinine ratio, serum lipid profile.

GJMR-E Classification : NLMC Code: WJ 303, QV 243



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Gaurang K. Anandpara^α & Dinesh Javarappa^σ

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A case control comparative study was done with preeclampsia and normal pregnant women, both for out door patient and indoor patients of Basaveshwara Medical College Hospital & RC, Chitradurga according to the criteria.

Study group will be followed up every 4 weeks in first 28 weeks of gestation. Blood samples and 24 hr/random urine samples will be collected for biochemical evaluation of lipid parameters and urinary protein and urinary creatinine.

In this study,

It was found that there were significant increases in levels of Triglycerides & LDL-Cholesterol ($p < 0.001$), Slight increases in Total cholesterol levels ($p < 0.001$) and significant decreases in HDL-Cholesterol levels ($p < 0.001$) in cases of preeclampsia in comparison to normal pregnant women. Urinary creatinine levels in cases of preeclampsia showed decreased levels ($p < 0.001$) and Protein/creatinine ratio in urine showed significant increases ($p < 0.001$) as compared to normal pregnant women.

Keywords: preeclampsia, urinary protein, urinary creatinine, urinary protein: creatinine ratio, serum lipid profile.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Pre-eclampsia is defined as development of hypertension and proteinuria ($> 300\text{mg}$ urinary protein in 24hrs) after 20th week gestation. Hypertension is defined as a blood pressure greater than 140/90mm Hg or a rise in blood pressure of 30/15 mm Hg from the base line confirmed by two measurements 6 hrs apart.¹

Pre-eclampsia is a leading cause of maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality worldwide. It is a hypertension disorder of unknown etiology characterized by proteinuria, coagulation abnormalities and different systemic manifestations². Pre-eclampsia occurs in about 5-7% of pregnancies. It is known to effect the function of various organs involving-metabolism.

Several studies have shown that endothelial dysfunction is related to hyperlipidemia with elevated plasma concentration of triglycerides, phospholipids and total lipids and declination of HDL-cholesterol³.

The most important feature in toxemia of pregnancy is hypertension which is supposed to be due to vasospastic phenomenon in kidney, uterus, placenta and brain⁵. Altered lipid synthesis leading to decreased PGI₂: TXA₂ ratio is also supposed to be an important way of pathogenesis in pre-eclampsia. Thus abnormal lipid metabolism seems important in the pathogenesis of Pre-eclampsia too⁴.

The association of serum lipid profile with gestational proteinuric hypertension is highly suggestive to reflect some new diagnostic tools. Moreover, the hormonal imbalance is a prime factor for the etiopathogenesis of Pre-eclampsia and this endocrinal imbalance is well reflected in alteration of serum lipid profile⁵.

The presence of proteinuria is seen as a possible indication of many complications in pregnancy, from urinary tract infection to chronic renal disease and it remains central to the diagnosis of pre-eclampsia in a hypertensive pregnancy. It has both diagnostic and prognostic implications⁶. Extensive changes occur in the renal system in pre-eclampsia. As a part of the end organ pathology pre-eclamptic glomeruli undergo structural changes with pronounced endothelial

vacuolization and hypertrophy of the cytoplasmic organelles, first defined as glomerular endotheliosis⁷.

To predict proteinuria during pregnancy, estimation of urinary protein to Creatinine ratio is vital. The gold standard of for measuring proteinuria is 24hrs urine collection, but a faster screening method is needed to save time. Spot urinary protein: creatinine ratio is however preferred for the purpose. This ratio has a sensitivity of 96% and a specificity of 53%. This way of estimation of urinary protein: creatinine ratio is significant in predicting proteinuria⁸.

There appears to be a lacunae in the correlation of dyslipidemia to proteinuria with respect to urinary protein :creatinine ratio in cases of pre-eclampsia. The present study had focused on enabling us to understand the probable significance of urinary protein: creatinine ratio in diagnosing pre-eclampsia in and around chitradurga..

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

a) Inclusion Criteria

Primigravida with pre-eclampsia in the age group of 18-35 yrs, without any previous history of hypertension, dyslipidemia or other organ dysfunctions. Gestational age of 20 weeks.

b) Exclusion Criteria

Multigravida and all maternal abnormalities in pregnancy.

III. METHODS

Study group will be followed up from 28th weeks of gestation. Blood samples and 24hr/random urine samples will be collected for biochemical evaluation of Lipid parameters and Ur. Protein.

Lipid profile is estimated by automated method, urinary protein and creatinine by Pyrogallol Red method and Jaffes method respectively.

2 ml of venous blood sample were collected from pre-eclampsia cases and normal pregnant women as per criteria into plane vaccutainers, Blood samples were analysed for lipid profile and urine was analysed for protein. The results were statistically analysed with student 'T' test.

A case control comparative study was done with Pre-eclampsia and normal pregnant women according to criteria.

IV. RESULTS

The present study included a total number of 100 subjects consist of 50 preeclampsia cases and 50 normal pregnant women.

Table 1 narrates lipid profile in preeclampsia cases and Normal pregnant women.

Table 2 shows, the urinary protein, urinary creatinine and urinary protein – creatinine ratio.

Table 1 : Comparison of Lipid Profile Between Pre-Eclampsia Cases and Control Group

Parameters [mg/dl]	Serum TAG	Serum Total Cholesterol	Serum HDL – C	Serum VLDL- C	Serum LDL-C
Normal Pregnant Women (n=50)	132.16 ± 13.13	156.7 ± 14.96	38.52 ± 2.40	26.54 ± 2.70	91.64 ± 14.77
Preeclampsia cases(n=50)	202.04*** ± 25.29	243.5 *** ± 24.77	32.6 *** ± 3.31	40.34 *** ± 5.10	170.56 *** ± 23.80

Note :-

1. The number in parenthesis shows the number of samples
2. Values are expressed as their Mean ± SD.
3. p-value * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001.

Table 2: Comparison of Urinary Protein, Urinary Creatinine & Urinary Protein:Creatinine Ratio Between Pre-Eclampsia Cases and Control Group

Parameters	Urinary protein [mg/dl]	Urinary creatinine [mg/dl]	Urinary protein:creatinine ratio
Normal Pregnant Women (n=50)	4.40 ±2.00	83.34 ±17.49	0.05 ±0.03
Preeclampsia cases(n=50)	27.56***± 17.15	50.38***± 7.92	0.55 ***± 0.35

Note :-

1. The number in parenthesis shows the number of samples
2. Values are expressed as their Mean ± SD.
3. p-value * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001.

V. DISCUSSION

Table 1 shows a comparative study between preeclampsia and normal pregnant women on parameter triglycerides, total cholesterol, HDL-C, LDL-C and VLDL-C. It is seen that the serum triglycerides, LDL-C, VLDL-C are significantly increased (p < 0.001) as compared to normal pregnant women and HDL-C is significantly decreased (p < 0.001) as compared to normal pregnant women and total cholesterol was slightly increased (p < 0.001) as compared to normal pregnant women.

Dyslipidemia is significantly evident in cases of preeclampsia according to Gohil J T⁹ et al., Hubel¹⁰ et al. showed in their study that triglyceride levels increase two fold in preeclamptic patients in comparison to normal pregnant women. Cuneyt Evruke et al¹¹ proved that in pregnancy all lipid fractions increased with increasing age of pregnancy which is secondary to increase in estrogen and progesterone levels in pregnancy, NAF Islam et al¹² have shown in their study that HDL-C levels are markedly decreased in comparison to normal pregnant women.

During pregnancy there is increase in the hepatic lipase activity and decrease in lipoprotein lipase activity. Hepatic lipase is responsible for the increased synthesis of triglycerides at the hepatic level where as the decreased activity of lipoprotein lipase is dyslipidemia mediated activation of the endothelial cells and placentally derived endothelial disturbing factors like lipid peroxides could be the possible cause of the pathogenesis of pre-eclampsia.

Table-2 shows a comparative study between Urinary Protein and creatinine in Pre-eclampsia and Normal pregnant women. Urinary creatinine levels in cases of preeclampsia decreases (p < 0.001) as compared to normal pregnant women. GFR and renal blood flow increased predominantly during the course of the pregnancy resulting in physiological fall in the serum creatinine concentration.

The random urinary protein: creatinine ratio in preeclampsia cases is significantly increases, (p <

0.001) as compared to normal pregnant women is probably due to renal glomerular endotheliosis leading to impaired glomerular perfusion and filtration.

The urinary protein-creatinine ratio in pre-eclamptic pregnant women is significantly increased as compared to normal control group indicating that pre-eclamptic glomeruli undergo structural changes with pronounced endothelial vacuolization and hypertrophy of the cytoplasmic organelles leading to glomerular endotheliosis according to studies of Christopher P. Price et al.

In this study, it was found that dyslipidemia and increased protein: creatinine ratio were associated with preeclampsia suggests that lipid profile and random urinary protein: creatinine ratio may be useful in screening for preeclampsia cases.

In conclusion, Altered lipid profile with increased Triglycerides and decreased HDL levels along with increased protein-creatinine ratio in Preeclamptic patients can be used as comboparameters as an early assessment tool or early marker in the prediction of pre-eclampsia.

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Lipid Peroxidation During the Cryopreservation Process of Porcine Spermatozoa

By H. A. Goolsby, G. Simoni & J. Simoni+S. D. Prien
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Abstract- The potential advantages of sperm cryopreservation have not been fully accomplished due to the limiting detrimental effects the freezing process has on sperm structure and composition. Previous studies have suggested that cells suffer lipid peroxidation damage during the cryopreservation process, specifically indicating the damage results from mechanical stress during the preparatory and freezing processes. In this present study, sperm samples were analyzed for lipid stability throughout sample processing through evaluations for lipid peroxidation and lipid free radical concentration. Our analysis was completed in three experiments. In Exp. #1, lipid stability levels were evaluated from five separate boar ejaculates frozen using three different freezing methods to compare cryopreservation techniques. In Exp. #2, lipid peroxidation amounts for fresh post-ejaculate and albumin extended boar samples were compared. Experiment #3 involved evaluations of the semen processing to examine sample and seminal fluid alterations. Samples tested from the freezing protocol included fresh, extended, addition of a wash buffer, cooling to 17 °C, centrifugation, addition of two egg-yolk extenders, cooling to 5 °C and post-thaw values. Though there was no difference between the three freezing treatments, significant differences were noted between the fresh and extended samples ($P < 0.001$).

Keywords: *lipid peroxidation, sperm, cryopreservation, porcine.*

GJMR-E Classification : *NLMC Code: WO 510, WJ 834*



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Lipid Peroxidation During the Cryopreservation Process of Porcine Spermatozoa

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Abstract- The potential advantages of sperm cryopreservation have not been fully accomplished due to the limiting detrimental effects the freezing process has on sperm structure and composition. Previous studies have suggested that cells suffer lipid peroxidation damage during the cryopreservation process, specifically indicating the damage results from mechanical stress during the preparatory and freezing processes. In this present study, sperm samples were analyzed for lipid stability throughout sample processing through evaluations for lipid peroxidation and lipid free radical concentration. Our analysis was completed in three experiments. In Exp. #1, lipid stability levels were evaluated from five separate boar ejaculates frozen using three different freezing methods to compare cryopreservation techniques. In Exp. #2, lipid peroxidation amounts for fresh post-ejaculate and albumin extended boar samples were compared. Experiment #3 involved evaluations of the semen processing to examine sample and seminal fluid alterations. Samples tested from the freezing protocol included fresh, extended, addition of a wash buffer, cooling to 17 °C, centrifugation, addition of two egg-yolk extenders, cooling to 5 °C and post-thaw values. Though there was no difference between the three freezing treatments, significant differences were noted between the fresh and extended samples ($P < 0.001$). These findings were exemplified by the step by step analysis of the processing and freezing protocol. The lipid peroxidation amounts accumulated after each of the procedural step ($P < 0.001$). Significant differences were also observed in the lipid radical levels ($P < 0.001$). The results of the pre-freezing protocol, alterations in lipid stability do not appear to be due to thermal or mechanical stress. The largest gains of both lipid parameters developed after the addition of an egg-yolk freezing extender. The results suggest further studies in alternative extenders are needed.

Keywords: lipid peroxidation, sperm, cryopreservation, porcine.

I. INTRODUCTION

Several articles have been published based on lipid peroxidation and oxygen free radicals in human and murine semen samples. Negative correlations have been associated between increased levels of malondialdehyde (MDA) and reduced motility ¹⁻³ and poor fertilization capability ⁴ in human sperm. Though general conclusions may result from trials based on other species, species differences in composition have demonstrated the presence of varying protective enzymatic mechanisms against peroxidation. ⁵⁻⁸

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Very few articles have been published on lipid radicals in relation to boar semen. However, the studies published suggested lipid radicals were more detrimental than the radical hydroxyls. ⁹⁻¹¹ MDA and reactive oxygen species levels have been identified in samples incubated at 37 °C ^{9,10}, cooled liquid storage ^{11, 12} and post-thaw. ¹³

Though peroxidation levels have been analyzed in previous reports specifically studying the post-collection and post-thawed samples, the possibility of the interaction of the cells and cryoprotectant creating radicals during pre-freezing procedures has not been investigated. Given the minimal success of freezing methodologies for porcine semen and the high susceptibility of these cells to free radical damage, the objective of this study was to investigate the possible source of damage on a molecular level evaluating the lipid stability of the phospholipid membrane during the freezing and pre-freezing process.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

a) Semen Preparation

Semen specimens were collected artificially from boars at the Texas Tech University New Deal Farm by trained staff. During the post-collection evaluation, standard measurements including total gel-free volume, concentration, and motility were obtained. To fulfill standard breeding practices, all samples used possessed a minimum motility rate of 60 % post-collection and met the breeding requirements of the swine unit. From the filtered ejaculate, a 30 mL sample was retrieved and extended with 60 mL of a pre-heated X-Cell extender (IVM; Maple Grove, MN). The sample was then packaged for transport to one of two possible laboratories.

Experiment #1. Five semen samples from five boars were collected and processed individually for this experiment. Upon arrival, the extended sample from each boar was placed in a refrigeration unit (17 °C) for 1 h. At the end of the refrigeration, 210 mL of a wash buffer maintained at 17 °C was added before continuing the storage in refrigeration unit for another 1.5 h. The samples were then centrifuge for 20 min at 805 x g (Sorvall RT6000 Centrifuge, Kendro Lab Products; Asheville, NC) in a 15 °C setting. The supernant fluid was removed and discarded. The remaining pellets were reconstituted in 30 mL of a 25 % egg-yolk extender, Boarciphos A (IVM; Maple Grove, MN), also

maintained at 17 °C. The sample was allowed to equilibrate for 1.5 h in a secondary refrigeration unit set at 5 °C. With 10 min intervals between, a second 25 % egg-yolk extender with 6 % glycerol, Boarciphos B (IVM; Maple Grove, MN), cooled to 5 °C, was added three times in 10 mL increments. After the entire 30 mL was added, the sample was maintained at 5 °C for 1 h. One ml aliquots of the extended sample were placed in 1.8 mL labeled cryo-vials (Nalge Nunc International; Denmark) before being cryopreserved. Through labeling, specimens were separated into three freezing treatment groups:

Control: Liquid nitrogen mist for 10 min

A: 5 min held in a fluid vat at -10 °C followed by 4 min in a fluid vat at -25 °C (average cooling rate -4.3 °C/min)

B: 5 min held in a fluid vat at -10 °C followed by 4 min in a fluid vat at -25 °C, both vats equipped with a proprietary filter to slow cooling rates (average cooling rate -2.8 °C/min)

Freezing treatments "A" and "B" were two optimal freezing treatments of a unique freezing technology (UFT: Supachill USA; Lubbock, TX) developed in previous trials within our laboratory (references). Once frozen, samples were plunged into liquid nitrogen and stored until testing began for lipid peroxidation rates and lipid free radical amounts.

Experiment #2. For Exp. #2, we used fresh post-ejaculate boar samples (N=5) and extended post-ejaculate samples (N=5) for lipid stability comparisons from five boars. The above protocol discussed in semen processing was utilized and completed until arrival at the off-site lab. One mL aliquots were extracted from all 10 samples and placed in 1.8 mL cryo-tubes (Nalge Nunc International; Denmark). Immediately afterwards, each vial was plunged in liquid nitrogen for freezing and storage.

Experiment #3. The third phase of this trial utilized the same protocol discussed above in Exp. #1 on three semen samples from separate boars. However, the proportions of original semen sample and the various extenders used were increased. This ensured sufficient amounts for three 1 mL aliquots of semen samples and fluid to be extracted during each major step of the protocol without influencing final ratios. The semen samples represent the whole fractions available at that step. Fluid samples were created by centrifuging addition samples during each step specified below. The procedural steps represented include:

1. Ejaculation samples post-transport
2. Extended samples post-transport
3. Extended samples cooled to 17 °C for 1 h
4. Samples equilibrated with a wash buffer at 17 °C for 1.5 h
5. Samples after centrifugation for 20 min at 805 x g
6. Samples equilibrated with the first freezing extenders at 5 °C for 1.5 h

7. Samples equilibrated with the second freezing extenders at 5 °C for 1.5 h
8. Post-thaw values of optimal freezing treatment.

Due to the density of the semen pellet after centrifugation and concerns of altering final concentrations, a semen sample was not extracted for this step. While thawing the samples, fluid specimens were not removed for analysis. After extraction during each step, the aliquots were plunged and stored in liquid nitrogen.

b) Quantification of Lipid Peroxidation

After thawing at room temperature and then being vortexed, a 200 µL sample was extracted from each aliquot and utilized for this test. The semen samples were mixed with 200 µL of SDS solution, 1.5 mL of 20% AA solution (at 3.5 pH), 1.5 mL TBAR solution (1.6 g 2-thiobarbitric acid with 200 mL of deionized water) and 600 µL of deionized water. After vortexing each sample, the samples were incubated in a 100 °C water bath for 2 h. The samples were then cooled for 10 min at room temperature before centrifuged at 1006 x g (CRU-500 Centrifuge, Damon/IEC; Needham Heights, MA) for 10 min. A 0.5 mL sample of fluid was again extracted from each tube and mixed with 2 mL of butanol. After a second centrifugation at 1200 x g (Sorvall RC5C Centrifuge, Kendro Lab Products; Asheville, NC) for 10 min, each fluid sample was transferred into a glass absorbance box individually for analysis at 532 nm wavelength in a spectrophotometer (Coleman 575, Perkin-Elmer; Oak Brook, IL).

c) Quantification of Free Lipid Radicals

A 250 µL sample was extracted from each specimen and placed into a pre-labeled 12 x 75 mm glass tube. After diluting each sample in 2 mL of a 2:1 chloroform:heptane mixture, each tube was thoroughly vortexed. The samples were then centrifuged for 10 min at 1572 x g (CRU-500 Centrifuge, Damon/IEC; Needham Heights, MA). Fluid in the amount of 700 µL was extracted from each specimen and transfer to a new set of glass tubes. Samples were dried under a flow of normal air at ambient temperatures for 15-20 min. The dried extracts were reconstituted in 2 mL of heptane before performing a spectrophotometer (Coleman 575, Perkin-Elmer; Oak Brook, IL) analysis at a 233 nm wavelength. The lipid radical control, required for proper calculations, was processed the same as a sample except the control contained 250 µL of water instead of a sample.

d) Statistical Analysis

The analysis of the lipid peroxidation and lipid free radical amounts for the three freezing treatments was analyzed using analysis of variance (ANOVA). Boar and freezing treatment were both used as part of the statistical model. The means were separated through Fisher's Least Squared Differences (LSD).

III. RESULTS

Results of the fresh and extended values for lipid peroxidation were compared using. Though the results were significant, the sample size was too small to complete a LSD analysis.

On the procedural analysis in Exp. #3, the lipid peroxidation and lipid free radical amounts were also analyzed using the ANOVA model. Since these values represent accumulations of lipid instability over time, a linear regression model function was used to analyze each parameter.

All statistical analyses were performed using the SPSS Version 8.0 Software (SPSS, Inc.; Chicago, IL).

a) Experiment #1

When comparing the three freezing treatments using five separate semen samples, the differences between the treatments were not significant for either lipid evaluations. However, there was an interaction between the boar and lipid peroxidation amounts ($P < 0.005$). These differences, shown in Table I, concur with the variability of semen quality between boars.

Table 1: Averaged Lipid Peroxidation and Free Radical Amounts from Three Freezing Treatments in Experiment #1

Boar	Lipid Peroxidation		Radicals	
	(nM/mL)	SEM	(A233/mL)	SEM
Yellow (n = 3)	62.3 ^b	2.79	5.7	0.28
Pink (n = 3)	58.6 ^b	2.19	5.5	0.24
White (n = 3)	58.2 ^b	2.36	5.7	0.18
Green (n = 3)	52.2 ^a	2.19	5.9	0.10
Orange (n = 3)	50.8 ^a	2.76	5.8	0.25

Different letter superscripts indicate significant differences between the lipid peroxidation of five boars ($P < 0.02$)

b) Experiment #2

When comparing membrane lipid stability between fresh, post-ejaculation samples and extended post-ejaculation samples there was a significant

difference. Lipid peroxidation rates were much higher for the fresh samples as compared to the extended samples ($P < 0.001$; Table II).

Table 2: Averaged Lipid Peroxidation Amounts from Fresh and Extended Boar Samples in Experiment #2

Sample	n	Lipid Peroxidation	
		(nM/mL)	SEM
Fresh 5		14.3 ^a	2.24
Extended	5	1.6 ^b	0.36

Different letter superscripts indicate significant differences between the lipid peroxidation levels of the sample types ($P < 0.001$)

c) Experiment #3

Referring to Table III, lipid peroxidation levels accumulated during the handling procedure in both specimen types was evaluated. The levels of peroxidation were significantly different within the semen samples ($P < 0.001$) and fluid samples ($P < 0.001$). Using the LSD procedure, significant differences were

observed at various transition points of the procedure including steps 1 to 2, steps 4 to 6, and steps 7 to 8 in the sample ($P < 0.05$) and fluid ($P < 0.001$). Furthermore, increasing amounts of MDA were correlated between the semen and fluid levels ($r = 0.96$). These increases in peroxidation rates are emphasized in Figure I.

Table 3: Averaged Lipid Peroxidation Amounts from Procedural Steps

Step	n	Sample	Malondialdehyde Amounts (nM/mL)			
			SEM	n	Fluid	SEM
1: Post-collection	3	10.2 ^a	6.97	3	5.2 ^w	0.12
2: Extended	3	22.6 ^b	4.90	3	21.4 ^x	1.77
3: Cool to 17 °C	3	23.9 ^b	3.14	3	23.3 ^x	2.49
4: Wash Buffer	3	23.4 ^b	2.52	3	22.6 ^x	0.67
5: Centrifugation	0	n/a	-	3	23.5 ^x	0.94
6: Freezing Extender at 5 °C	3	66.0 ^c	1.83	3	41.6 ^y	2.33
7: Second Freezing Extender	3	62.2 ^c	4.42	3	50.4 ^z	3.30
8: Frozen-Thaw Samples	3	53.2 ^d	6.74	0	n/a	-

Different letter superscripts (a,b,c,d) indicate significant differences between lipid peroxidation levels of the procedural steps in the samples ($P < 0.05$).

Different letter superscripts (w,x,y,z) indicate significant differences between lipid peroxidation levels of the procedural steps in the fluid extracted ($P < 0.001$).

Referring to Table IV, lipid free radical levels also showed significant variations during the procedure for the samples ($P < 0.001$) and fluids ($P < 0.001$) evaluated. The amounts found from the samples and fluid extracted were again correlated ($r = 0.985$). Using the LSD procedure, a significant increase was found after the addition of the egg-yolk freezing extender in the

sample ($P < 0.001$) and fluid ($P < 0.001$). The lipid free radical accumulation is presented in Figure II. In lieu of the accumulation trends of lipid instability, the reduction of motility is correlated with higher levels of both lipid peroxidation ($r = -0.913$, $P < 0.001$) and free radicals ($r = -0.940$, $P < 0.001$) as demonstrated in Table V.

Table 4 : Averaged Lipid Free Radical Amounts from Procedural Steps

Step	n	Sample	SEM	Free Radical Amounts (nM/mL)		
				n	Fluid	SEM
1: Post-collection	3	0.1 ^a	0.13	3	0.1 ^y	0.02
2: Extended	3	0.1 ^a	0.03	3	0.1 ^y	0.01
3: Cool to 17 °C	3	0.1 ^a	0.02	3	0.0 ^y	0.0
4: Wash Buffer	3	0.0 ^a	0.0	3	0.0 ^y	0.0
5: Centrifugation	0	n/a	-	3	0.0 ^y	0.0
6: Freezing Extender at 5 °C	3	3.4 ^b	0.81	3	3.5 ^z	0.74
7: Second Freezing Extender	3	3.2 ^b	0.78	3	4.3 ^z	1.75
8: Frozen-Thaw Samples	3	3.7 ^b	0.20	0	n/a	-

Different letter superscripts (a,b) indicate significant differences between lipid free radical levels of the procedural steps in the samples ($P < 0.001$).

Different letter superscripts (y,z) indicate significant differences between lipid free radical levels of the procedural steps in the fluid extracted ($P < 0.001$).

IV. DISCUSSION

High lipid peroxidation levels have been associated in several articles with reduced sperm functionality.¹⁻⁴ Similar results were found in the present study as well (refer to Table V). However, it has been suggested in other articles that the cause of this

membrane degradation was due to the mechanical stresses of cryopreservation. Our data suggests that the changes observed are due to the pre-freezing procedures, especially the addition of egg-yolk extenders at a cooled state (refer to Tables III and IV).

Table 5 : Motility and Lipid Stability Trends from the Samples of Experiment #3

Sample	n	Motility	Lipid Peroxidation (nM/mL)	Radicals (A233/mL)
Post-collection	3	75 % ¹	6.70 ^a	0.14 ^y
A Trt	3	23 % ²	53.2 ^b	3.66 ^z
B Trt	3	22 % ²	57.2 ^b	3.79 ^z
Control	3	14 % ²	58.3 ^b	3.72 ^z

Different number superscripts indicate significant differences between motility percents ($P < 0.001$).

Different letter superscripts (a,b) indicate significant differences between lipid peroxidation levels ($P < 0.001$).

Different letter superscripts (y, z) indicate significant differences between lipid free radical amounts ($P < 0.001$).

Negative correlations were found between motility percentages and lipid peroxidation ($r = -0.913$) amounts and between motility percentages and lipid free radical ($r = -0.940$) amounts.

Centrifugation is a common step to concentrate the specimen in the cryopreservation preparation process. Yet it has been suggested that centrifugation may cause undue stress.¹⁴ It has been observed in dog semen, that lower centrifugal speeds resulted in a higher amount of sperm lost in the supernate while viability losses were higher at increased centrifugational velocities. Yet, membrane integrity was maintained at the various speeds.¹⁵ Our evaluation of the seminal fluid extracted before and after centrifugation, show very little difference in lipid stability (refer to Table III and IV).

Neild and colleagues reported a capacitation-like phenomenon after centrifugation of stallion sperm.¹⁶ Thus, permeability alterations may be due to other sources than lipid peroxidation.

Protein degradation due to peroxidation has been observed.⁸ Baumber et al. correlated high peroxidation levels in post-thawed semen with DNA fragmentation.¹⁷ This may actually be the cause for the reduced fertilization capability recognized in sperm after cryopreservation.¹⁸

As observed in bovine semen, our results showed higher levels of peroxidation in frozen-thawed semen versus fresh or cooled (refer to Tables III and IV). However, due to the trends at various points in the procedural analysis, our results do not demonstrate the stress in relation to cooling and thawing as suggested by Chatterjee and Gagnon.¹⁹ Instead, the largest accumulation of both lipid peroxides and lipid radicals was observed during the addition of the freezing egg yolk extender (refer to Tables III and IV). Egg yolk contains phosphatidylcholine, similar to that already present in the membrane of sperm. Though studies have demonstrated the protective effects of egg yolk,²⁰ our results indicate a negative side. Misik and colleagues²¹ demonstrated the amplification in MDA levels in egg yolk held at 22 °C compared to 50 °C. The introduction of a diluent with ongoing lipid peroxidation or the addition of a product, specifically lipid peroxides (LOOH), will enhance lipid peroxidation.²² Thus, alternative extenders need to be investigated. Braun and colleagues observed an increase in the membrane integrity and motility of frozen stallion semen with the exclusion of egg-yolk.²³ Dacaranhe and Terao observed reduced iron-peroxidation levels with the presence of phosphatidylserine.²⁴ A trial on frozen stallion semen has already verified an improvement in motility with the addition of phosphatidylserine.²⁵

The addition of antioxidants, such as Vitamin E, may need to be incorporated into breeding schemes to reduce lipid peroxidation rates. Increases in semen quality have been observed in²⁶ turkey, boar,^{12, 27} ram,²⁸ and horse samples¹⁷ with antioxidant supplementation. Dietary antioxidant supplementation has also increased semen quality in boars²⁷ and roosters.²⁹

In the swine industry, semen cryopreservation is not frequently used due to the low number of piglets commonly produced. Previous studies have suggested that the structure of the sperm cells is damaged by the mechanical stress of freezing, thus reducing function. One example is the difference observed in the membrane lipid stability before and after freezing. In the present study, we attempted to find when these changes occur by comparing semen samples from various procedural steps in the freezing process. The most significant lipid stability change was observed after an egg-yolk extender was added to the sample. Our results suggest the lipid alterations may not be due to the mechanical stress of freezing but rather by the extenders used. Though many freezing protocols use egg-yolk as a protectant and nutrition source for sperm, new extenders that stabilize lipids may need to be investigated. Also, dietary vitamin supplements may also improve outcomes. Further research is needed.

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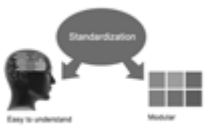
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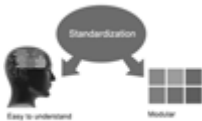
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A purpose of organizing a research paper is to let people to interpret your effort selectively. The journal requires the following sections, submitted in the order listed, each section to start on a new page.

The introduction will be compiled from reference matter and will reflect the design processes or outline of basis that direct you to make study. As you will carry out the process of study, the method and process section will be constructed as like that. The result segment will show related statistics in nearly sequential order and will direct the reviewers next to the similar intellectual paths throughout the data that you took to carry out your study. The discussion section will provide understanding of the data and projections as to the implication of the results. The use of good quality references all through the paper will give the effort trustworthiness by representing an alertness of prior workings.



Writing a research paper is not an easy job no matter how trouble-free the actual research or concept. Practice, excellent preparation, and controlled record keeping are the only means to make straightforward the progression.

General style:

Specific editorial column necessities for compliance of a manuscript will always take over from directions in these general guidelines.

To make a paper clear

- Adhere to recommended page limits

Mistakes to evade

- Insertion a title at the foot of a page with the subsequent text on the next page
- Separating a table/chart or figure - impound each figure/table to a single page
- Submitting a manuscript with pages out of sequence

In every sections of your document

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- Align the primary line of each section
- Present your points in sound order
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- Use past tense to describe specific results
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The summary should be two hundred words or less. It should briefly and clearly explain the key findings reported in the manuscript-- must have precise statistics. It should not have abnormal acronyms or abbreviations. It should be logical in itself. Shun citing references at this point.

An abstract is a brief distinct paragraph summary of finished work or work in development. In a minute or less a reviewer can be taught the foundation behind the study, common approach to the problem, relevant results, and significant conclusions or new questions.

Write your summary when your paper is completed because how can you write the summary of anything which is not yet written? Wealth of terminology is very essential in abstract. Yet, use comprehensive sentences and do not let go readability for brevity. You can maintain it succinct by phrasing sentences so that they provide more than lone rationale. The author can at this moment go straight to shortening the outcome. Sum up the study, with the subsequent elements in any summary. Try to maintain the initial two items to no more than one ruling each.

- Reason of the study - theory, overall issue, purpose
- Fundamental goal
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Approach:

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- Very for a short time explain the tentative propose and how it skilled the declared objectives.

Approach:

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- Simplify - details how procedures were completed not how they were exclusively performed on a particular day.
- If well known procedures were used, account the procedure by name, possibly with reference, and that's all.

Approach:

- It is embarrassed or not possible to use vigorous voice when documenting methods with no using first person, which would focus the reviewer's interest on the researcher rather than the job. As a result when script up the methods most authors use third person passive voice.
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What to keep away from

- Resources and methods are not a set of information.
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The principle of a results segment is to present and demonstrate your conclusion. Create this part a entirely objective details of the outcome, and save all understanding for the discussion.

The page length of this segment is set by the sum and types of data to be reported. Carry on to be to the point, by means of statistics and tables, if suitable, to present consequences most efficiently. You must obviously differentiate material that would usually be incorporated in a study editorial from any unprocessed data or additional appendix matter that would not be available. In fact, such matter should not be submitted at all except requested by the instructor.



Content

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- Present a background, such as by describing the question that was addressed by creation an exacting study.
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- Never confuse figures with tables - there is a difference.

Approach

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- Make a decision if the tentative design sufficiently addressed the theory, and whether or not it was correctly restricted.
- Try to present substitute explanations if sensible alternatives be present.
- One research will not counter an overall question, so maintain the large picture in mind, where do you go next? The best studies unlock new avenues of study. What questions remain?
- Recommendations for detailed papers will offer supplementary suggestions.

Approach:

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- Submit to generally acknowledged facts and main beliefs in present tense.



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<i>References</i>	Complete and correct format, well organized	Beside the point, Incomplete	Wrong format and structuring



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