

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE AGE
& DECREASED FERTILITY IN
PERIMENOPAUSAL EGYPTIAN
WOMEN**

THESIS

Submitted for the Partial Fulfillment of
Master Degree in
Obstetrics and Gynecology

BY

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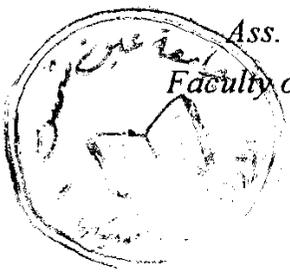
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RESEARCH REPORT ON THE
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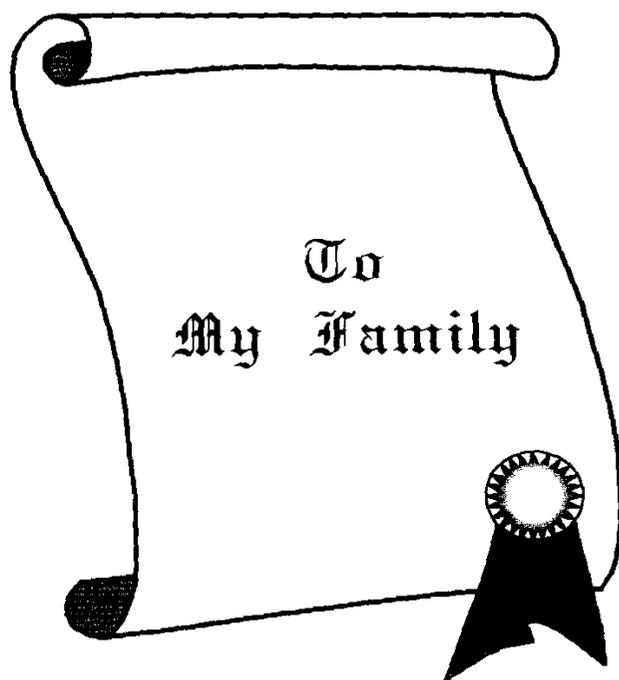
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INTRODUCTION

The terminology of menopause, climacteric, premenopause and postmenopausal are often used interchangeably; but strictly applied to different stages at the end of reproductive life in the human female. Menopause is derived from the Greek "meno" or month and "pau" to stop and means the cessation of menstruation. The climacteric or critical age is derived from the Greek klimakter (rung of ladder) and has been defined as a transitory phase in the human female between the ages of reproductive and non-reproductive ability (*Davey, 1981*)

Premenopause refer to the part of climacteric before the menopause occurs, the time during which the menstrual cycle is likely to be irregular and when other climacteric symptoms or complaints may be experienced. Postmenopause refers to the period of life that comes after the menopause (*Smith and Judd, 1994*).

Menopause is a significant landmark for women. It marks the closure of menstrual life. It is a universal event for all women. However, this period of life is engulfed in controversy I.e., is the menopause a normal process or is it a disease? The view that menopause is a disease dominates medicine. Menopause long has been considered an estrogen -deficiency disease (*Voda et al., 1986 and MacPherson, 1981*).

INTRODUCTION

The definition of menopause as disease has its origins in patriarchal views defective and imperfect as related to men and or machines that need to be fixed (*Martin, 1988*). This view of menopause has been socially constructed and has overshadowed the concept of menopause as a normal biologic event (*Voda et al., 1986; Voda and Eliasson, 1985*).

According to Henty statistics 50% of women experience spontaneous menopause between the of 45 and 50 years, 25% experience it between 40 and 45 years, 10% of women experience it before the age of 40 years premature menopause and 15% of women experience it after age of 50 years delayed menopause (*Hammond, 1996*).

Women become less fertile as they approach the menopause. There is nevertheless still the potential for conception if ovulation occurs. Normal practice is to advise women to continue to use contraception for one year following cessation of menstruation if this happens at age of 50 years or above, and for two years if menses stopped before 50 years. Many women experience symptoms that they attribute to the menopause while still menstruating and they frequently request and commonly receive hormone replacement therapy (HRT). The prescribing of HRT is likely to increase further as there growing awareness of the favorable effects of HRT, particularly on postmenopausal osteoporosis and coronary artery disease (*La Rosa, 1995*).