

**DELAY IN THE FETAL HEMOGLOBIN SWITCH IN THE
INFANTS OF DIABETIC MOTHERS**

Thesis

**Submitted for partial fulfillment of
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

اقْرَأْ بِسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ

اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْبَرُ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ

عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

1-	&	And.
2-	α	Alpha chain.
3-	B	Beta chain.
4-	γ	Gamma chain.
5-	ϵ	epsilon chain.
6-	HBF	Fetal hemoglobin.
7-	HBA	Adult hemoglobin.
8-	L/S	Lecithin/syphingomyelin ratio.
9-	IDMS	Infant of diabetic mothers.
10-	%	Percent.
11-	δ	delta chain.
12-	ζ	Zeta chain.
13-	JCMZ	Juvenile chronic myeloid leukemia.
14-	HPFH	Hereditary persistence of fetal hemoglobin.
15-	NICU	Neonatal intensive care unit.
16-	HPLC	High performance liquid chromatography.
17-	RDS	Respiratory distress syndrome.

LIST OF FIGURES

1	The relation of cord serum C-peptide levels to gestational age in infants of non diabetic and diabetic mothers	(15)
2	The rate of respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) versus gestational age in non diabetic and diabetic pregnancies	(16)
3	The rate of respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) versus gestational age according to route of delivery: Vaginal or cesarean section	(16)
4	The separation of embryonic Hb and HbF from alysate of a hemin-stimulated culture of K562 cells by chromatography	(38)
5	The acquired and inherited conditions leading to increase HbF in adult life	(46)
6	The globin gene complexes A) B-gene complex on chromosome 11 B) alpha-gene complex on chromosome 16.	(55)
7	Qualitative and quantitative changes in globin chains during human development	(56)
8	Various steps involved in Hb biosynthesis	(60)
9	The pleiotropic effects of the gene for sickle cell anemia	(68)
10	The number and percentage of maternal diabetes mellitus class	(88)
11	The number and percentage of disease control in diabetic mothers during pregnancy	(90)
12	The comparison between the studied groups as regards apgar score at 1 minute	(93)
13	The comparison between the studied groups as regards Apgar score at 5 minutes	(95)

List of Figures (continue):

14	The comparison between the studied groups as regards gestational age	(97)
15	The comparison between the studied groups as regards birth weight	(99)
16	The comparison between the studied groups as regards Hb level	(101)
17	The comparison between the studied groups as regards RBCS count	(103)
18	The comparison between the studied groups as regards HCT value	(105)
19	The comparison between the studied groups as regards MCV level	(107)
20	The comparison between the studied groups as regards MCHC level	(109)
21	The comparison between the studied group as regards TLC	(111)
22	The comparison between the studied groups as regards platelet count	(113)
23	Blood glucose distribution among IDMS	(115)
24	Comparison between the studied groups as regards HbF and HbA levels at birth	(117)
25	Comparison between group I (IDMS) and group II (normal controls) as regards HbF and HbA levels after 6 months	(119)
26	Correlation between blood glucose level and HbF level in the studied IDMS at birth	(121)
27	Correlation between blood glucose level and HbA level in the studied IDMS at birth	(122)

LIST OF TABLES

1	The classification of diabetes in pregnancy pregestational diabetes	(6)
2	The classification of gestational diabetes	(7)
3	The risk for CNS,CVS and all major defects among IDMS	(26)
4	Relative risks for specific defects among 28 infants of Insulin-dependent diabetic mothers	(27)
5	The different types of hemoglobin	(52)
6	The inheritance risks from mating of individuals who are normal heterozygous or homozygous for variant hemoglobin	(64)
7	The globin chain variants	(65)
8	The comparison between the studied groups as regards maternal age	(85)
9	The comparison between the studied groups as regards maternal parity	(86)
10	The number and percentage as regards maternal diabetes mellitus class	(87)
11	The number and percentage as regards disease control in diabetic mothers during pregnancy	(89)
12	The comparison between the studied groups as regards modes of delivery	(91)
13	The comparison between the studied groups as regards Apgar score at 1 minute	(92)
14	The comparison between the studied groups as regards Apgar score at 5 minutes	(94)
15	The comparison between studied groups as regards gestational age	(96)
16	The comparison between the studied group as regards birth weight	(98)

List of Tables (continue):

17	The comparison between the studied groups as regards Hb level	(100)
18	The comparison between the studied groups as regards RBCS count	(102)
19	The comparison between the studied groups as regards HCT Value	(104)
20	The comparison between the studied groups as regards MCV level	(106)
21	The comparison between the studied groups as regards MCHC	(108)
22	The statistical comparison between the studied groups as regards TLC	(110)
23	The statistical comparison between the studied groups as regards platelet count	(112)
24	The blood glucose distribution among IDMS	(114)
25	The comparison between the studied groups as regards Hb F and HbA levels at birth	(116)
26	The statistical comparison between group I (IDMS) and group II (normal controls) as regards HbF and HbA levels after 6 months	(118)
27	The correlation between blood glucose level and HbF and HbA levels in the studied IDMS	(120)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK	(1)
REVIEW OF LITERATURE:	
* Infant of diabetic mothers	(4)
* Embryology of hemoglobin formation	(35)
* Molecular basis of hemoglobin formation	(54)
SUBJECTS AND METHODS	(77)
RESULTS	(85)
DISCUSSION	(123)
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	(137)
RECOMMENDATIONS	(140)
REFERENCES	(141)
ARABIC SUMMARY.	

INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK

INTRODUCTION

Between 28 and 34 weeks of gestation a switch in non-alpha-globin production from predominantly gamma-globin to beta-globin begins and hemoglobin F ($\alpha_2\gamma_2$) is largely replaced by hemoglobin A ($\alpha_2\beta_2$) (Bard et al., 1970).

This phenomenon ordinarily proceeds on apparently set developmental clock and it is not affected by the gestational age at birth or the anatomic site of blood production (Bard and Prosmanne, 1982, Wood and Weatherall, 1983).

It occurs despite the disastrous consequences that result when abnormal or insufficient beta-globin is produced in patients with beta-chain hemoglobinopathies or beta-thalassemia (Ali, 1970).

There are populations of patients with beta abnormalities in whom a higher than normal level of hemoglobin F is maintained, and such patients have been observed to have milder clinical courses than their counterparts with normal levels of hemoglobin F (Perrine et al., 1978, Perrine et al., 1981).

----- Introduction and aim of the work (1) -----

Recently, insulin has been shown to affect gene expression in a number of mammalian systems (Jones and Taylor, 1980, Clough et al., 1984).

Infants of diabetic mothers are exposed to intermittent or continuous maternal hyperglycemia and have elevated levels of glycosylated proteins and of glycosylated hemoglobin F (Elseweidy et al., 1984).

In addition, they have excessive glucose utilization and are usually hypoglycemic in the neonatal period and have pancreatic beta-Islet-cell hyperplasia. Consequently, they are widely considered to be hyperinsulinemic (Ballard, 1991).

Perrine et al., (1985) found significant delay in the switch from gamma-globin to beta-globin in infants of diabetic mothers, They suggested that this finding might allow identification of physiologic factors that could modulate developmental gene suppression.

----- Introduction and aim of the work (2) -----

AIM OF THE WORK

The aim of this work was to evaluate the fetal hemoglobin switch during it's natural evolution under exposure to higher than normal levels of insulin which occurs during gestation in infants of diabetic mothers.

----- Introduction and aim of the work (3) -----

REVIEW OF LITERATURE