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في حالات تمزق الغشاء الامنيوني المبكر

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في  
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

“وَفَوْقَ كُلِّ ذِي عِلْمٍ عَلَيْهِ

صدق الله العظيم

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### ABSTRACT

Twenty five cases of premature rupture of membrane (PROM) and 15 cases without PROM are involved in our study.

The concentration of  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin in amniotic fluid was measured in patients with and without premature rupture of membranes. The concentration of  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin in amniotic fluid with premature rupture of membranes ( $21.42 \pm 11.34$  IU/ml) was significantly lower than in cases without premature rupture ( $54.28 \pm 42.52$  IU/ml) ( $P < 0.001$ ). These study suggests that low concentration of  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin in amniotic fluid is one cause of premature rupture of membranes.

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## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is dedicated to my father , my son and my husband .  
Their continual love and support made this work possible .

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Abstract.....	ii
Acknowledgement.....	iii
Dedication.....	iv
Contents.....	v
List of Tables.....	vii
List of Figures.....	viii
Literature Review.....	
Development and Anatomy.....	1
Mechanical properties of membrane.....	4
General aspects of fibrous connective tissue.....	17
Etiology of premature rupture of membranes (PROM)	22
Infection.....	22
Nutrition and Dietary Factors.....	30
Sexual Activity.....	31
Cervical Incompetence.....	34
Pregnancy-Related Conditions.....	36
Pathogenesis of PROM.....	38
Prevention of PROM.....	43
Identification of the high risk patients....	43'
Prevention.....	44
Management of PROM.....	48
Collagenases and Pregnancy.....	52
Proteolytic enzymes and implantation.....	54
Proteolytic enzymes and PROM.....	55

	<u>Page</u>
Collagenolysis in human cervix and vagina during pregnancy.....	61
Cleavage of human type III collagen by various proteinases.....	64
Proteinase Inhibitors.....	69
Proteinase inhibitors and uterine fluid.....	71
Alpha one antitrypsin.....	72
Material and Methods.....	77
Determination of $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin.....	78
Method of the plates.....	80
Evaluation.....	84
Results.....	89
Discussion and Conclusion.....	96
Summary.....	104
References.....	106
Arabic Summary	

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LIST OF TABLES

- Table (I): Comparative measures of the tensile strength of human amniochorion with various enzymes and control solution (McGregor et al., 1987).
- Table (II): Trypsin concentration by radioimmunoassay in amniotic fluid, (Kanayama, 1987).
- Table (III): The characteristics of control and study groups as regards age, parity, week of gestation at delivery, length of time from rupture to collection of samples of amniotic fluid, precipitate ring diameters measured read from the table of calibration values appended to the plate and the concentration of  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin (IU/ml) corresponding to the diameters measured.
- Table (IV): Statistical evaluation of cases with and without premature rupture of membranes as regards age, parity, week of gestation at delivery and mean length of time from rupture of membranes to collection of amniotic fluids.
- Table (V): Statistical evaluation of  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin concentration in cases with and without premature rupture of membranes.

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. (1):** Typical load deformation curve (Artal et al., 1976).
- Fig. (2):** Idealized relationship with the application of stress and response of creep and extension (Lavery and Miller, 1979).
- Fig. (3):** The cross striated collagen fibril (Uldbjerg et al, 1983).
- Fig. (4):** Sterile disposable nilton catheter number 16.
- Fig. (5):** Nor-Partigen  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin plates (Behringwerke Co., Marburg, West Germany).
- Fig. (6):** The aluminium container of Nor-Partigen plate.
- Fig. (7):** The opened Nor-Partigen plates.
- Fig. (8):** Gilson micropepitt with a special Gilson tips.
- Fig. (9):** Behringwerke Measuring Viwer.
- Fig. (10):** Scaled magnifying glass shown with Gilson micropepitt.

- Fig. (11):** Bar chart showing numbers of patients with specific age in years in cases of premature rupture of membranes (study group) and no PROM (control group).
- Fig. (12):** Bar chart showing nubmers of patients with their certained parity in PROM (study group) and no PROM (control group).
- Fig. (13):** Bar chart showing numbers of patients with gestational age at delivery in weeks in PROM (study group) and no PROM (control group).
- Fig. (14):** Graph representing  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin concentrations (IU/ml) with individual cases of PROM (study group) and no PROM (control group).

# ***LITERATURE REVIEW***

### DEVELOPMENT AND ANATOMY

The human amnion develops either by delamination from the cytotrophoblast about the seventh or eighth day of development of the normal ovum or else it develops essentially as an extension of the fetal ectoderm.

Initially, a minute vesicle, the amnion develops into a small sac that covers the dorsal surface of the embryo. As the amnion enlarges, the growing embryo is gradually engulfed and prolapses into the amniotic cavity. Distension of the amniotic sac eventually brings it into contact with the interior of the chorion; a position of the mesoblasts of chorion and amnion near the end of the first trimester results in the obliteration of the extraembryonic coelom. The amnion and chorion, although adherent, are never connected intimately and usually can be separated easily, even at term, (Pritchard et al., 1985).

By the time the human embryo has become implanted, the amniotic cavity has already appeared, (Hamilton, et al., 1962). Trophoblastic cells lined with mesoderm constitute the chorion. Amniogenic cells delaminate

from the inner surface of the trophoblast to form the amnion. Ectoderm continuous with that of the embryonal disc grows out to line the amniotic cavity.

By the third trimester, the amnion consists of a single layer of epithelial cells superimposed on a layer of dense connective tissue containing a high concentration of collagen filaments. These two layers together are about 0.05 to 0.11 mm thick (Donforth and Hull, 1958; and Polishuk et al., 1962). Reticular stains demonstrate a heavy reticulum in the fibrous layer, and it is this connective tissue that provides the major strength to the fetal membranes. Loose areolar tissue is very weakly attached to the fibrous layers and makes fingerlike projections into the underlying chorion. The chorion, in turn, lies directly apposed to uterine decidua. Since no mitotic activity is demonstrable in the latter half of pregnancy, the amniotic cavity must enlarge by stretching and hypertrophy of already-existing cells. The epithelial cells of the reflected surface of the amnion that line the uterus are cuboidal, while those on the placental surface are columnar. This may be the consequence of constant growth stress, aggravated by uterine contraction, applied to the reflected surface cells, as compared with the reduced stress generated over

the placental surface, which is splinted by the underlying tissue mass. In normal pregnancy, a well-described system of amnion cell shedding can be observed with the scanning electron microscope (Polland et al., 1976). During this process, the basement membrane is exposed, demonstrating the importance of the basement membrane and its supporting connective tissue in maintaining fetal membrane integrity. Immediately beneath the basement membrane is a compact network of randomly scattered reticular fibrils (Bou-Resli et al., 1981), which become progressively less dense at sites further from the placental bed. The major portion of the connective tissue zone is the fibroblast layer composed of collagenous bundles and reticular fibrils in crossing sheets with embedded fibroblasts. Again as the distance progresses from the placenta this arrangement becomes looser, and the sheets are disrupted. There are lesser amounts of both collagen and reticular fibrils, (Alger and Pupkin, 1986).

The chorion itself averages four to six cells in thickness but is extremely variable, ranging from 0.04 to 0.40 mm (Daonforth and Hull, 1958; and Polishuk et al., 1962). In some areas the chorion is healthy and