

**Biochemical Versus ultrasound findings as
predictors of fetal loss in cases of first
trimester threatened miscarriage**

Thesis

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By

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✍ Amany Abd El-monem Mahmoud

List of Contents

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
List of Abbreviations.....	i
List of Tables	iii
List of Figures.....	iv
Abstract	viii
Introduction.....	1
Aim of the Work.....	3
Review of Literature	
Miscarriage	4
Ultrasound in early pregnancy	42
Biochemical markers of threatened miscarriage	64
Patients and Methods.....	73
Results.....	87
Discussion	115
Summary.....	128
Conclusion and Recommendations	131
References.....	133
Arabic Summary	—

List of Abbreviations

<i>Abbr.</i>	<i>Full-term</i>
aCL	: anticardiolipin
ACOG	: American Collage for Obstetricians and Gynecologists
ANOVA	: Analysis of variance
aPL	: Anti-phospholipid antibodies
AUC	: Area under the curve
AUROC	: Area Under the ROC curve
BMI	: Body mass index
BPD	: Biparietal diameter
bpm	: beats per minute
CA125	: Cancer antigen 125
CGH	: Comparative genomic hybridization
CI	: Confidence interval
CRL	: Crown-rump length
EPAS	: Early pregnancy assessment service
ESHRE	: European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology
FHR	: Fetal heart rate
FL	: Femur length
GA	: Gestational age
GSD	: Gestational sac diameter
GTG	: Green top guide lines

hCG	: Human chorionic gonadotropin
EHR	: Embryonic heart rate
IL	: Interleukin
IUP	: Intra uterine pregnancy
IVF	: In-vitro fertilization
LA	: Lupus anticoagulant
LH	: Luteinizing hormone
NICE	: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NK	: Natural killer
PPV	: Positive predictive value
P	: Progesterone
PAPP-A	:Pregnancy associated Plasma protein A
PCOS	: Polycystic ovarian syndrome
PUL	: Pregnancy of unknown location
RBC	: Red blood cells
RM	: Recurrent miscarriage
ROC	: Receiver Operating Characteristic
RPAH	: Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH)
RPL	: Recurrent pregnancy loss
RSA	: Recurrent spontaneous abortion
SD	: Standard deviation
SDF	: Sperm DNA fragmentation
SPSS	: Statistical package for social science
Th	: T-helper
TPO-Ab	: Thyroperoxidase antibody

List of Abbreviations

TSH	: Thyroid stimulating hormone
TVS	: Transvaginal ultrasound
US	: Ultrasound
YS	: Yolk sac
YSD	: Yolk sac diameter
β2GP1	: Beta 2 glycoprotein-1 antibody

List of Tables

<i>Table No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
Table (1):	Mean gestation sac diameter in mm as an estimate of gestational age by transvaginal sonography.....	46
Table (2):	Carnegie staging.....	48
Table (3):	Distribution of the studied cases according to age.	89
Table (4):	Age distribution in group I (Ongoing pregnancy) and group II (miscarried group):	90
Table (5):	Comparison between group I (Ongoing pregnancy) and group II (miscarried group) regarding gestational age at time of admission:.....	91
Table (6):	Gravidity in group I (Ongoing pregnancy) and group II (miscarried group):	93
Table (7):	Detailed distribution of Gravidity in group I (Ongoing pregnancy) and group II (miscarried group):	94
Table (8):	Previous Parity in group I (Ongoing pregnancy) and group II (miscarried group):....	96
Table (9):	History of previous miscarriage in group I (Ongoing pregnancy) and group II (miscarried group):	98
Table (10):	Comparison between group I (Ongoing pregnancy) and group II (miscarried group) regarding sonographic markers at First visit:..	105

Table (11): Comparison between group I (Ongoing pregnancy) and group II (miscarried group) regarding progesterone and CA125 level:..... 108

Table (12): Correlation of Serum CA125 and demographic data of all studied cases..... 109

Table (13): Correlation of serum CA125 with Sonographic markers 110

Table (14): Correlation between CA125 level and progesterone level..... 111

List of Figures

<i>Figure No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
Figure (1):	Ultrasound image showing a fetus of 8 weeks' size within a gestational sac.....	20
Figure (2):	Gestational sac.	46
Figure (3):	Yolk sac.	47
Figure (4):	Relationship between the Carnegie stage with the GA (A) and CRL (B), with the corresponding P50 line (solid line) and 95% prediction interval (dotted lines).....	49
Figure (5):	Anembryonic gestation.....	53
Figure (6):	A large sub chorionic hematoma	56
Figure (7):	Ectopic pregnancy with an embryo within the adnexa.	59
Figure (8):	The echogenic ring of an ectopic pregnancy	59
Figure (9):	A heterogeneous adnexal mass.	60
Figure (10):	Cervical ectopic pregnancy with vascular flow visible.....	62
Figure (11):	Cesarean scar ectopic pregnancy	63
Figure (12):	CA 125 assay values in healthy pregnant women.....	70
Figure (13):	Samsung WS80a device	81
Figure (14):	Pregnancy outcome among the study group.....	88

Figure (15): Distribution of study subjects according to age.....	89
Figure (16): Mean of Gestational age (weeks) in both studied groups	91
Figure (17): Gravidity in group I (Ongoing pregnancy) and group II (miscarried group).....	93
Figure (18): Gravidity in group I (Ongoing pregnancy) and group II (miscarried group)	94
Figure (19): Previous Parity in group I (Ongoing pregnancy) and group II (miscarried group).....	96
Figure (20): The mean of gestational sac size in both Ongoing and miscarried pregnancy group .	100
Figure (21): The mean of yolk sac size in both ongoing and miscarried pregnancy group ..	101
Figure (22): The mean of crown rump length in both ongoing and miscarried pregnancy group ..	102
Figure (23): The mean of embryonic heart rate in both ongoing and miscarried pregnancy group ..	104
Figure (24): The mean of progesterone in both ongoing and miscarried pregnancy group ..	106
Figure (25): The mean of CA-125 in both ongoing and miscarried pregnancy group.....	108
Figure (26): Correlation between CA125 level and progesterone level	111
Figure (27): ROC curve of embryonic heart rate, and progesteron for predicting outcome of pregnancy.....	113
Figure (28): ROC curve of CA-125 for predicting outcome of pregnancy	114

ABSTRACT

Objective: To evaluate the accuracy of ultrasound findings in comparison to serum CA125 and progesterone in predicting fetal demise in cases of first trimester threatened miscarriage.

Setting: Ain Shams University Maternity hospital.

Patients and Methods: A total of 42 pregnant women between 6- and 8-weeks' gestation were assessed for eligibility and divided into two groups: Group I: 29 cases who completed the 1st trimester of pregnancy. Group II: 13 cases who failed to complete the 1st trimester of pregnancy.

Results: The incidence of miscarriage was 30%. Women who miscarried and those who continued their pregnancy were not significantly different as regards demographic data, GSD, YSD and CRL. On the other hand, there was association between fetal bradycardia, increased serum CA125 or decreased serum progesterone and fetal loss. Estimation of CA125, progesterone serum level with the ultrasonographic findings in patients with threatened miscarriage are attempts to develop rapid, cheap and sensitive method for anticipating the pregnancy outcome and detecting which of them is the most accurate. According to our study, CA125 is the most accurate method.

Conclusion: CA125 is more accurate than progesterone and ultrasound findings in predicting fetal demise in cases of first trimester threatened miscarriage.

Key words

Biochemical; ultrasound; fetal loss; first trimester; threatened miscarriage

Introduction

The early first trimester of pregnancy is the fragile period for pregnancy viability, with up to 50% of embryos being lost before the pregnancy is clinically detected, and up to 15% to 25% of clinical pregnancies spontaneously miscarry (*Bamniya et al., 2017*).

Threatened miscarriage is a clinically descriptive term applied to women who are less than 20 weeks of gestation having vaginal spotting or bleeding, closed cervical os and possibly mild uterine cramps. It may progress to a term viable pregnancy or may result in incomplete, complete, missed or septic miscarriage. It occurs in about 20% of early pregnancies. it is a clinical dilemma for the obstetrician regarding the outcome of pregnancy (*Kant et al., 2015*)

Ultrasound is an accurate method for evaluating threatened miscarriage because it can readily demonstrate the presence or absence of embryonic cardiac motion. (*Johns et al., 2006*).

The embryonic heartbeat can usually be identified by transvaginal sonography at 6 weeks' gestation. Previous studies have found association between severe embryonic bradycardia and fetal loss. (*Bamniya et al., 2017*)

Fetal bradycardia is usually defined as: fetal heart rate (FHR) <100 bpm before 6.3 weeks gestation, or FHR <120 bpm between 6.3 and 7.0 weeks (*Pillia et al., 2018*).

In cases of threatened miscarriage Fetal bradycardia, discrepancy between gestational age and crown to rump length and a yolk sac larger than 7 mm are all adverse prognostic factors regarding fetal outcome (*Rodgers et al., 2015*).

Serum Cancer Antigen 125 (CA125) is the most reliable marker for predicting the outcome of threatened miscarriage. According to *Fiegler et al. (2003)* a single CA125 concentration of at least 43.1 IU/ml was associated with a greater risk of miscarriage in 200 women who had had vaginal bleeding in their first trimester (*Pillai et al., 2016*).

According to Witt et al 1990 Progesterone, due to its constancy in maternal serum during early normal gestation and due to its rapid metabolic clearance (<10 min), could potentially be an excellent marker for early pregnancy failure (*Witt et al., 1990*).

Threatened miscarriage has a psychological impact on patients so we need to have a tool that could predict its outcome in advance.

Aim of the Work

To evaluate the accuracy of ultrasound findings in comparison to serum CA125 and progesterone in predicting fetal demise in cases of first trimester threatened miscarriage..

Chapter (1)

Miscarriage

The term ‘miscarriage’ is applied to many complications of early pregnancy, and it is important to be clear on terminology. In 2005, the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) introduced a revised terminology regarding early pregnancy events (**Farquharson et al., 2005**):

A pregnancy loss that occurs after a positive urinary human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) or a raised serum β -hCG but before ultrasound or histological verification is defined as a ‘biochemical loss’. In general, these occur before 6 weeks of gestation (**Jauniaux et al., 2006**).

The term clinical miscarriage is used when ultrasound examination or histological evidence has confirmed that an intrauterine pregnancy has existed. Clinical miscarriages may be subdivided into early clinical pregnancy losses (before gestational week 12) and late clinical pregnancy losses (gestational weeks 12 to 21). There is no consensus on the number of pregnancy losses needed to fulfill the criteria for recurrent miscarriage (RM), but ESHRE guidelines define recurrent miscarriage as three or more consecutive pregnancy losses before 22 weeks of gestation (**Jauniaux et al., 2006**):