Assessment of the hematological profile in neonates borne to sever pre eclamptic mothers (single center study)

Abstract

Background: Preclampsia is a common disease unique to human pregnancy representing a challenge to obstetricians and neonatologists because of its serious effects on the mothers and babies. We aimed to evaluate hematological and coagulation aspects in newborns of preeclamptic mothers.

Patients and methods: Sixty (30 full and 30 preterm) neonates delivered to hypertensive mothers and another 30 (15 full term and 15 preterm) babies of healthy normotensive mothers were as controls were enrolled. Detailed history taking and full clinical examination were done stressing on parity, mode of delivery, birth weight, APGAR score at 0 and five minutes and gestational age. All enrolled neonates were subjected to complete blood count (HB, Ht, MCV, MCH, WBC, PLATES), PT, PC and PTT.

Results: In full term babies of preeclamptic mothers, primigravida were 70% compared to 20% in controls while in preterm group, primigravida mothers were 80% compared to 33.3% in controls (p=0.001). Cesarean section was the predominant mode of delivery in preterm neonates to preclamptic mothers (76.6% compared to 13.3% in controls while in full term group, cesarean section was 53.3 % compared to 86.3% for the controls. Sever preeclampsia comprised 80% of mothers of pre term infants versus 33.3% in mothers of term infants APGAR score was lower in infant of preclamptic mothers. RBCs number were and hemoglobin levels were significantly higher in neonates of preclamptic mothers (either term or preterm) than the control (p=0.001) while WBCs were significantly lower in neonates of preclamptic mothers (10.7±2.1,10.8±2.2 and 13.1±1.9,13±1.7 respectively) (p=0.001).

Conclusion: Neonates borne to preclamptic mothers are more susceptible to impaired global coagulation status which is more expressed in preterm babies.

Introduction

Hypertensive disorders during pregnancy are associated with high maternofetal mortality and morbidity in both underdeveloped and developed countries.1 Approximately 70% of hypertensive disorders are due to gestational hypertension this condition is called pre eclampsia.2 The working group of national High Blood Education Program (NHBPEP) had classified these disorders into five types.1

a. Gestational hypertension (formerly pregnancy-induced hypertension that included transient hypertension)

b. Preeclampsia.

c. Eclampsia.

d. Preeclampsia superimposed on chronic hypertension.

e. Chronic hypertension.

These disorders complicating 10-15% of all pregnancies however this ratio suspected to be higher in underdeveloped counties for many reasons such as lack of antenatal care, absence of health awareness and low socioeconomic status.4,5 Preeclampsia is usually associated with several fetal and neonatal complications such as fetal distress, fetal death, growth restriction, oligohydramnios, low APGAR scores and preterm delivery.6 The increased incidence of perinatal morbidity and mortality seen in pregnancies complicated by preeclampsia, although complex and multifactorial, is primarily due to the need for premature delivery and utero-placental insufficiency resulting in compromises of fetal blood flow.7,8

A wide range of blood changes usually associated with normal uncomplicated pregnancy, namely neutrophilic leukocytosis, hyperlipidemia and procoagulant, hypofibrinolytic changes. Preeclampsia has been found to enhance these normal changes and also cause placental abnormalities resulting in both fetal and neonatal complications9,10 hence we need to evaluate some of these hematological changes in babies of preeclampsic mother in order early recognition and managements.

Patients and method

This prospective case control study was conducted at Minia University obstetric and children’s Hospital El Minya, Egypt, for duration of 8 months (August 2016 to April 2017). The study was conducted according to the principles of Helsinki and was approved...
by the research ethical committee of faculty of medicine, Minia University and approved written consents were obtained from the mothers enrolled in the study. The study included 60 cases and 60 controls. Case group included the neonates born to pregnant Pre eclamptic mothers while control group enrolled healthy gestational age matched neonates borne to healthy mothers. Pre-eclampsia is defined as a) hypertension with proteinuria (systolic pressure elevated >140 mm of Hg and diastolic pressure >90 mm of Hg appearing for the first time after 20 weeks of gestation b) proteinuria alone (>300 mg/24 hour). Babies born with high maternal or neonatal risk factors like, diabetes mellitus, severe anemia, chronic hypertension, renal disease, heart disease, connective tissue disease, babies born to mothers with hypertension diagnosed before 20 weeks of gestation and babies with congenital malformations all were excluded from the study (Table 1).

Patient group involved 30 full term and 30 preterm neonates and control group enrolled 30 full term and 30 preterm ones. Detailed maternal history, prenatal, natal and postnatal history was obtained. Thorougly clinical examination of the neonates was done. Anthropometric parameters like head circumference, chest circumference, length, weight, and were recorded. Immediately after birth and at 72h after birth 2 ml cord blood was collected into the vacutainer anticoagulated with EDTA and following parameters were studied. Neonatal CBC count and the red cell indices - MCV, MCH, and MCHC were estimated using 5 part Sysmex Automated cell analyzer. Coagulation profile like PT, PTT was estimated. Severe preclampsia is defined as diastolic blood pressure (BP) of at least 110 mm Hg or systolic BP of at least 160 mm Hg, and/or symptoms, and/or biochemical and/or hematological impairment (Table 2).

### Table 1 Demographic and clinical data of preeclamptic mothers as well as of healthy controls

| Variables          | Term N=30 | Control N=15 | p-value   | Preterm N=30 | Control N=15 | p-value   |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| Maternal age (year) | 27.9±4.03 | 27.6±3.9     | 0.7       | 28.2±4.1     | 27.2±3.6     | 0.4       |
| Systolic BP (mmHg)  | 145±2.3   | 110±1.7      | 0.03      | 155±3.2      | 121±2.7      | 0.009     |
| Diastolic BP (mmHg) | 105±1.1   | 78.6±2.9     | 0.02      | 110±2.5      | 85±4.5       | 0.01      |
| Pre-pregnancy BMI   | 24.9±0.7  | 23.3±0.9     | 0.2       | 25.1±0.9     | 23±0.7       | 0.3       |
| Gestational age (Week) | 38.3±0.7  | 38.8±0.9     | 0.001*    | 33.9±1.2     | 34.4±0.9     | 0.1       |
| Parity:             |           |              |           |              |              |           |
| PG                 | 21 (70%)  | 3 (20%)      | 0.004*    | 24(80%)      | 5(33.3%)     | 0.001*    |
| MG                 | 9 (30%)   | 12(80%)      |           | 6 (20%)      | 10(66.7%)    |           |
| Mode of delivery:   |           |              |           |              |              |           |
| CS                 | 16(53.3%) | 13(86.3)     | 0.07      | 23(76.6%)    | 2(13.3%)     | 0.002*    |
| VD                 | 14(46.7%) |              |           | 7(23.3%)     | 13(86.7%)    |           |
| Preeclampsia:       |           |              |           |              |              |           |
| Mild               | 20(66.7%) |              |           | 6(20%)       |              |           |
| Sever              | 10(33.3%) |              |           |              | 24(80%)      |           |

BP, blood pressure; PG, primigravida; MG, multigravida; CS, cesarean section; VD, vaginal delivery; BMI, body mass index; *, significant (p<0.05).

### Table 2 Clinical data of infant of preeclampsia as well as healthy controls

| Variables          | Full term N=30 | Control N=15 | p-value   | Preterm N=30 | Control N=15 | p-value   |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| Birth weight (kg)   | 2.2±0.2        | 3.1±0.1      | 0.001*    | 1.8±0.2      | 2.2±0.1      | 0.001*    |
| APGAR (1 minute)    | 7.7±0.8        | 8.8±0.7      | 0.001*    | 6.5±0.7      | 7.4±0.3      | 0.001*    |
| APGAR (5 minute)    | 8.3±0.6        | 9.5±0.5      | 0.001*    | 7.5±0.9      | 8.5±0.8      | 0.001*    |
| Hematocrit value    |                |              |           |              |              |           |
| Hb (gm/ml)          | 16.2±0.9       | 15.4±0.8     | 0.004*    | 16.6±1.1     | 15.1±0.5     | 0.001*    |
| MCV                | 89.1±2.2       | 91.6±3.1     | 0.67      | 82.1±3.2     | 89.6±1.1     | 0.77      |
| MCH                | 24.1±1.8       | 23.9±1.9     | 0.78      | 25.1±2.7     | 24.9±1.9     | 0.68      |
Table 3: Comparison between term and preterm preeclampsia according to mother data

| Variables           | Term preeclampsia N=30 | Preterm preeclampsia N=30 | p-value |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Mother age (year)   | 28.2±4.1               | 27.5±4.03                 | 0.7     |
| Pre-pregnancy BMI   | 25.1±0.9               | 24.9±0.7                  | 0.2     |
| Pregnancy duration  | 33.9±1.2               | 38.3±0.7                  | 0.001*  |
| Parity              |                         |                           |         |
| PG                  | 20 (66.7%)             | 21 (70%)                  | 0.7     |
| MG                  | 10 (33.3%)             | 9 (30%)                   |         |
| Mode of delivery    |                         |                           |         |
| CS                  | 23 (76.7%)             | 16 (53.3%)                | 0.002*  |
| NVD                 | 7 (23.3%)              | 14 (46.7%)                |         |
| Preeclampsia        |                         |                           |         |
| Mild                | 6 (20%)                | 20 (66.7%)                | 0.001*  |
| Sever               | 24 (80%)               | 10 (33.3%)                |         |
| PROM                | -                      | 3 (10%)                   |         |
| Chorioamnionitis    | 3 (10%)                | 3 (10%)                   | 0.5     |

PG, primigravida; MG, multigravida; CS, cesarean section; NVD, normal vaginal delivery; PROM, premature rupture of membrane; *, significant (p<0.05).
Discussion

Pregnancy induced hypertension one of the important causes of maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity. Several types of complications had been documented among those babies born to hypertensive mothers. One of these problems is the hematological changes which may add to the existing neonatal morbidities. There was significant increase in Hb level and RBCs count in the study neonates compared to controls (p=0.004, 0.001) respectively agreeing the results of Bolat et al., where the risk of polycythemia was shown to be 12.6-fold higher in babies of hypertensive mothers compared to the general population, and it was proven that maternal hypertension constituted a significant risk for polycythemia independent of fetal. No significant differences regarding MCV, MCH, and MCHC between patients and controls however, some authors growth. It has been reported that normoblasts increase in babies of preeclamptic mothers and this is secondary to uteroplacental hypoperfusion reported high different results. WBCs values were lower in both preterm and fullterm neonates of preeclamptic mothers compared to healthy ones. Preclampsia is known to be a risk factor for neonatal neutropenia and thus for infections in premature newborns. Leucopenia and neutropenia had been proved in many reports. Several mechanisms has been postulated for explanation of leucopenia in that group of babies. Reduced levels of growth factors that are responsible for increase neutrophil production together with presence of inhibitors decrease neutrophil production. The activity of colony stimulating factor has been shown to be reduced at the placenta of hypertensive mother also fas-fas ligand interaction was reported to be associated with leucopenia in pre-eclampsia. Also, shifting of hemopoiesis under the direct effect of hypoxia towards erythropoiesis rendering the babies at risk of bleeding and increased susceptibility to infection due to reduction of platelets number and impaired coagulation profile. Preterm baby has proven to be more affected than full term all these findings need good antenatal care and resuscitation facilities and careful follow up of hematological and coagulation status for this group of babies.

Conclusion

Hypertension during pregnancy has direct effect on the newborn of affected mother producing several mortalities and mortifies, one of these complication is alteration of hemobiotic system and coagulation profile rendering the babies at risk of bleeding and increased susceptibility to infection due to reduction of platelets number and impaired coagulation profile. Preterm baby has proven to be more affected than full term all these findings need good antenatal care and resuscitation facilities and carful follow up of hematological and coagulation status for this group of babies.

Acknowledgments

None.

Conflicts of interest

The author declares there are no conflicts of interest.

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Citation: El Sayed MA, Abdalla AA. Assessment of the hematological profile in neonates borne to severe pre eclamptic mothers (single center study). *Int J Preg & Chi Birth*. 2018;4(6):214–218. DOI: 10.15406/ipcb.2018.04.00129