

Comparation of Nitric Oxide and Prostanoids between Preeclampsia and Normal Pregnant women

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Abstract

Introduction: Among all hypertensive disorders, preeclampsia is a multisystem disorder with death in the fetus and mothers. In the study, the level of plasma NO, TXA₂, PGE₂ and PGI₂ (as vasodilator and Vascular contraction) was compared between normal and preeclampsia pregnant women. **Material and Methods:** 40 preeclampsia and 40 healthy pregnant women were selected. The Nitrite and Nitrate (the stable product of NO) were measured by Griess reaction. The stable metabolites of thromboxane A₂ (thromboxane TXB₂), PGI₂ (6-keto-prostaglandin F_{1α}) and PGE₂ were measured by reverse-phase HPLC. Statistical analysis was performed using T-test and SPSS software. **Results:** the level of NO in the plasma of preeclampsia group was $36.22 \pm 5.4 \mu\text{mol/l}$ as compared to normal group ($56.72 \pm 11.3 \mu\text{mole/l}$) and PGI₂, PGE₂ and TXA₂ in the plasma of preeclamptic women were 22.35 ± 14.40 , 92.57 ± 46.18 , 2082.25 ± 694 ng/ml respectively. Meanwhile the level of them for control (normal) group were 118.07 ± 39.81 ($P < 0.001$), 240.92 ± 122.87 ($P < 0.001$) and 450.22 ± 330.93 ($P < 0.001$), respectively. The ratio of TXA₂/PGI₂, used to express relative vasoconstriction vs vasodilation effect, was 83% higher in preeclampsia women to normal pregnant women ($P < 0.001$). **Conclusion:** this study showed the significant reduction of NO, PGI₂, PGE₂ and an increase in TXB₂ in preeclampsia as compared to normal pregnant women, which suggests the role of above compounds in the pathogenesis of preeclampsia. Thus the measurements of these compounds could be useful in diagnosis of early-preeclampsia and control of these factors for prevention of side effects of preeclampsia.

Keywords: Pre-eclampsia, Nitric Oxide, Prostanoids

Introduction

Pre-eclampsia is detected as blood pressure syndrome accompanied with proteinuria in the pregnancy. Blood pressure more than 140/90 mmHg after twentieth week of pregnancy also proteinuria more than 300 mg during 24 hours or 1 plus in urine strip test. Approximately 5 percent of all pregnancies

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get complicated with pre-eclampsia. chance of occur this problem is depend on economical condition so that it had an increase to 10%

among low income women whereas it had decline to 2% among rich women (Leeman et al., 2016). Pre-eclampsia is a multisystem disorder and it is the most and prevalent factor for mortality and defecion in the fetus and mothers (Lecarpentier et al., 1983). Pre-eclampsia can be classified as slight or severe, generally based on level of blood pressure and involvement or lack of involvement body systems. The unpredictable process of this syndrome that varies from slow advancement to rapid. One of the syndromes which is derived from Pre-eclampsia is HELLP that is characterise with hemolysis, high level of liver enzymes and low platelets count (Leeman et al., 2016; Gedik et al., 2017). Etiology of this disease still is unknown but there are evidences about damage of endothelial cells and change their performance which these facts indicated they have an important role in pre-eclampsia pathogenesis (Adekola et al., 2015). Increase of blood vessels reaction and damage of endothelial in pre-eclampsia state leads to change sensitivity of blood vessels than Vasopressin hormones and Eicosanoid and lead to general contraction in the arterioles so that Increase of vascular contraction because of increase resistance than blood flow and arterial hypertension (Leeman et al., 2016). Most of researches have had focus on the role of Vasoactive Eicosanoids, as the level of Thromboxane A₂ had increase, Prostaglandin and prostacycline E₂ had decline in the normal pregnancy rather than women with pre-eclampsia that these conditions results to vascular contraction and sensitivity to angiotensin II (Broegger et al., 2016). The studies showed that imbalance between Prostaglandin PGI₂ (blood vessels dilator) and thromboxane A₂ (tightener of blood vessels) are the most important reasons responsible in pre-eclampsia (Lee et al., 2015; Nandiet al., 2017). Nitric oxide, as a powerful dilator of blood vessels, can have an important role in development of blood vessels during pregnancy period. Change in the production value of NO by endothelium cells can be effective in pre-eclampsia pathogenesis (Khalil & Hardman, 2015). On the other hand, nitric oxide can be initial mediator of lack of blood vessels responding to vasopressors in pregnancy. Change in production of this material or smooth muscle tissue reaction to nitric oxide can have an appropriate role in pre-eclampsia (Leiva et al., 2016). Recently, different studies have showed various results for the level of NO metabolites (Nitrite and Nitrate) in the blood samples. The reports indicated that the amount of NO metabolites in pre-eclampsia patients is accompanied with reduction, increase and without change rather than normal pregnant women (Khalil & Hardman,

2015; Ashraf et al., 2017; Zaheret al., 2017). Correct management of patients, clinical judgment and perfect knowledge about severity and advancement of disease and preventing from acute levels of the disease can cause to improve health in the mothers and fetus. Finally, initial recognition and appropriate treatment cause pregnancy induction and improvement their conditions (Leeman et al., 2016).

In Hence, the aim of this study was measurement the level of nitric oxide level (NO), thromboxane A2 (TXA2), prostaglandin E2 (PGE2) and prostacyclin (PGI2) in pre-eclampsia pregnant instead of normal pregnant women.

Method

Subject characteristics

This study was case-control, it has done among women suffering from pre-eclampsia with blood pressure equal to or more than 140/90 mmHg and proteinuria equal to or more than 300 mg during 24 hours or equal to or more than +1 in urine strip test with confirmation of gynecologist and normal women pregnant which referred to Shahid Abadi hospital in the Tehran. Criteria conditions for entering were included health water, first pregnancy, cephalic fetus, singleton, and the weeks of 37-40 of pregnancy. Individuals with the history of smoking, chronic systematic diseases (high blood pressure, diabetes, cardiovascular, renal, hepatic and metabolic disorders), chronic infections, and drug consumption were excluded. 10 ml venous blood sample before childbearing in sleep position after 15 minutes were collected in the plastic pipes contain anticoagulant EDTA-K3. Also patients restricted from consumption of food materials with Nitrite and Nitrate (Red meat and Bean). After centrifuge (rpm=1000 and 10 min), plasma was separated and kept in -20 degrees centigrade until experiment. Then biochemical parameters were analyzed by Hitachi 912. Then, 0.5 ml of plasma sample are added to 0.5 ml methanol 100% with 0.1% Acetic acid and after 5 minutes vortex, homogenized sample was centrifuged in 1500 rpm at 4°C for 15 minutes after transfer surface liquid to other pipe and added 1 ml acetic acid 0.1%, finally the sample with 25% methanol was extracted.

sample Extraction

After preparation of the cartridge, the sample with 25% methanol passed from column quickly and then, 5 ml acetic acid 0.1 and 5 ml methanol 25% with 0.1% acetic acid passed, respectively. And output liquid was evaporated and in the final phase, to extract Eicosanoids, 2/4 ml methanol 90% with 0.1% Acetic Acid passed and collect output liquid in clean pipe and evaporate extracted liquid with Nitrogen gas and supply achieved sediment with adding 200 Micro Liter of methanol 50% to volume and after mild vortex and passing from syringe filter 0.22 Micron, achieved sample was ready for injection to HPLC column (Aghazadeh et al., 2015).

NO measurement

NO measurement is performed with assistance of Nitric Oxide (NO₂-/NO₃-) assay kit based on instruction of manufacturer company of assay (design, Canada) with colorimetric method and sensitivity of 0/222 Micromole/Liter and cv-2/8% for Nitrite and sensitivity of 0/622 Micromole .Liter and cv-2/9% for Nitrate. After measuring Nitrite and Nitrate (after exact calculation based on formula), these two metabolites are reported as the amount of Nitric Oxide (NO).

In this method, Nitrite is combined with grease reagent and achieved colorful complex with light attraction in wavelength of 550 nanometer is measured based on standard curve in density of Micromole/Liter. To level of Nitrate, with enzymatic conversion of Nitrate to Nitrite, rest of phases are performed like Nitrite measurement levels and real density of Nitrate is determined with deduction from Nitrite amount and total of these two metabolites (Nitrite and Nitrate) are reported as the amount of Nitric Oxide (Gedik et al., 2017; Zaher et al., 2017).

Simultaneous measurement, PGE2, 6-keto-PGF1a and TXB2 by HPLC

Plasma level of stable metabolites of Thromboxane A2 (thromboxane B2), Prostacyclin PGI2 (6-keto-PGF1a) and Prostaglandin E2 after extraction steps with liquid chromatography with high efficiency- reverse phase (RP-HPLC) is measured in the Nano gram/ml level.

Equipment and Reagents

Used HPLC device includes pump, vacuum degassing, UV injector, and detector of Perkin Elmer Series Company (200 HPLC system, USA and C18 chromatography column of Knauer, Berlin company, solvent outgassing device, nitrogen gas capsule, syringe filter 0.22 micron from cartridge and polypropylene kind (C18, 100 mg, 3ml) of Kinesis Ltd and Cambridge shire company) iceman centrifuge and PH meter device.

The standards of PGE2, 6-keto-PGF1a (PGI2 stable metabolite) and TXB2 (TXA2 stable metabolite) of Cayman, USA company and acetonitrile, methanol, ethanol, phosphoric acid, acetic acid glacial 100% and distilled water with HPLC grade of Darmstadt, Germany, Merck provided.

HPLC method for TXB2, 6-keto-PGF1a and PGE2

Mobile phase includes volume 32/8 of acetonitrile and 67/2 distilled water that after solvent outgassing, supply PH to 3/3-3/5 by acid phosphoric. Moreover, injection of sample in the volume of 20 microliter is performed in wavelength of 195 Nano meter and passing mobile phase solvent with current speed of 1/5 ml/ min (Aghazadeh et al., 2015; Regnier & Gooding, 2018).

After injection of standards, recovery is about 80-100% and retention time reported (table1). In addition, all peaks are determined obviously and separately based on chromatogram (density of 5000 Nano Gram/ml) and standard curve for PGE2, 6-

keto-PGF1a and TXB2 is depicted with $r=0/9912$, $r=0/9991$ and $r=0/9986$, respectively (Figure 1).

Table 1: chromatographic behavior of retention time and efficiency (%) PGE2, TXB2, PGI2 (6-keto-PGF1a)

	Retention time (min)	Recovery (%)
6-keto-PGF1a	6:30	4±92
TXB2	11:40	4±87
PGE2	20:20	4±93

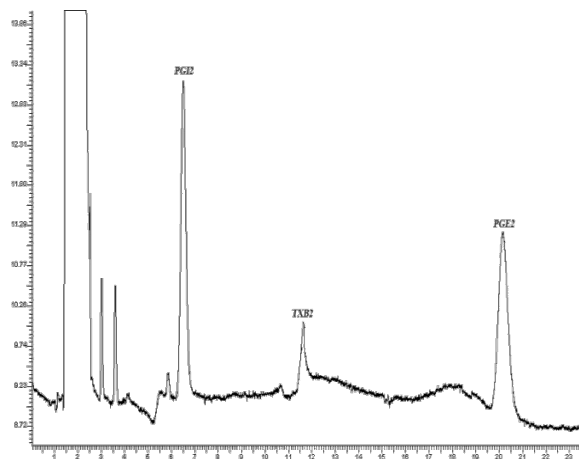


Figure 1. RP-HPLC chromatogram for standards of PGE2, TXB2, PGI2 (6-keto-PGF1a) in density of 5000 Nano gram/ml

Results:

The results of this study have showed which average age in the control group and pre-eclampsia patients were $23/7\pm4/7$ and $28/5\pm5/5$ respectively. Also, pregnancy weeks were evaluated as $37/9\pm1/1$ in the pre-eclampsia patients and $39/2\pm2/1$ in the control group. The amount of systolic and diastolic blood pressure was evaluated as $148\pm14/3$ and $96/3\pm10/5$ in pre-eclampsia and $73/7\pm8/1$ mmHg and $113/5\pm6/9$ mmHg in control group, respectively (table 2). NO plasma level was $36/22\pm5/69$ Mmole/l in the pre-eclampsia group and $56/72\pm11/13$ Mmole/l in control group. Moreover, level of PGI2, PGE2 and TXA2 in the serum among pre-eclampsia group and control group represented in the Table 3.

In addition, relation of level TXA2 rather than PGI2 which is a retractor of blood vessels against blood vessels dilator, among women suffering from pre-eclampsia have showed considerable increase in comparison with normal pregnant women. (Table 3)

Table 2: clinical indexes in pre-eclampsia and normal pregnant groups

variable	Normal	Pre-eclampsia
Age	$23/7\pm4/7$	$28/5\pm5/5$
Pregnancy week	$39/2\pm2/1$	$37/9\pm1/1$
Systolic pressure	$96/3\pm10/5$	$148\pm14/3$
Diastolic pressure	$73/7\pm8/1$	$113/5\pm6/9$

Body Mass Index (BMI)	$28/1\pm4/3$	$32\pm5/5$
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Table 3: level of PGI2, PGE2, TXA2 and NO in pre-eclampsia and normal pregnant groups

	Normal	pre-eclampsia	P-value
NO ($\mu\text{mol/L}$)	$56/72\pm11/13$	$36/29\pm5/6$	$< 0/001$
PGI2 (ng/mL)	$118/07\pm39/81$	$22/35\pm14/40$	$< 0/001$
PGE2 (ng/mL)	$240/92\pm122/87$	$92/57\pm46/18$	$< 0/001$
TXA2 (ng/mL)	$450/22\pm330/293$	$208/25\pm699/44$	$< 0/001$
TXA2/PGI2	3/81	93/16	$< 0/001$

Results of this study indicated level of PGI2, PGE2 and NO had decline. In spite level of TXA2 has had increase in the pre-eclampsia group and these results were in stark contrast among normal pregnancy in the period of their pregnancy. These results have showed the relevance among affects of these factors in pathogenesis of pre-eclampsia and relation between their demographic characteristics were complication. Measuring these combinations may be helpful as auxiliary tests in recognition of pre-eclampsia or even its evaluation and determination of its intensity. On the other hand, by measuring these components earlier than second third months of pregnancy, maybe we be able to recognize or increase of probability of pre-eclampsia for preventive operations and treatment. After all, maybe we will be able to help to decline the danger of pre-eclampsia with control the level of TXA2, NO, PGI2 and PGE2 parameters by controlling food regimes, herbs, and consumption of effective drugs in the period of their pregnancy.

Discussion:

Pre-eclampsia is a systemic disease with characteristics of undesirable performance of endothelial, spasm of blood vessels, oxidative stress increase, reduction of antioxidants, hyperlipidemia and activation of coagulation system. During the years, different theories are presented for clarification of pathophysiology of pre-eclampsia including vascular endothelial damage, lack of coordination and adjustment of cardiovascular performances, immunologic phenomenon, and unnatural trophoblastic invasion and inflammation of coagulation system. Despite many studies, etiology of pre-eclampsia has not been determined.

In this study results have shown the plasma level of NO, PGI2 and PGE2 in pre-eclampsia group was lower than control group significantly but plasma level of TXA2 was higher than control group in pre-eclampsia group considerable. Achieved results of study that has done in 2016 have indicated that progress of pre-eclampsia is in increase by connection of TXA2/PGI2 considerably and indicated that vascular retraction begins from second three months and continues until pregnancy finish. Moreover, the results showed that shortage of production of PGI2 is the first factor in beginning of second three month of pregnancy and considered damage of endothelial cells as the reason of reduction of endothelial cells for reduction of synthesis and PGI2

as the main factor of vascular retraction that this results were consensus by results of our study (Pai et al., 2016).

The study that has done in 2016 indicated that TAX2 levels in pre-eclampsia patients have been shown to reduce the risk of hypertension and reduce the risk of pre-eclampsia in pregnant women, although the increase in TAX2 levels in pregnant women with pre-eclampsia. The present study was one of the effective factors in the incidence of pre-eclampsia. However, the result of the present study was not consistent with this study in term of the level of TAX2 in the plasma of these patients.

In different studies, the results have shown that NO levels in the pre-eclampsia patients have decreased which decrease a level of NO leading to an increase in free radicals (ROS) and oxidative stress in these patients. These results were consistent with the results of this study in terms of decrease level of NO in the patients with pre-eclampsia. The results of these studies have show the cause of the effect of this factor more clearly in people with pre-eclampsia. (Matsubara et al., 2015), Of course, because of this matter that endothelial cells spatter blood vessels of PGI2 and NO and both of them are effective in hemostasis, permeability, and dilation of blood vessels and in most of studies of reduction of PGI2, they report NO in the patients with pre-eclampsia, we can reject compensatory response in increase of spatter of NO (Osol et al., 2017; Snydal et al., 2014).

With unknown etiology causes of pre-eclampsia and among different theories, damage of endothelial cells, ischemia in the pair and immunologic factors from fetus are more probable than other theories (akashima et al., 2017). Because normal pregnancy is accompanied with basic changes in cardiovascular system of the mother, she must adjust herself with these changes due to the needs of fetus to growth. Moreover, it seems that initial factor in imbalance of NO, PGE2 and TXA2 is as generalized with advancement of fetus and transfer of antigen factors from fetus to mother (Osol et al., 2016).

In the recent decades, many studies have done for detecting etiology of pre-eclampsia and different parameters involved in adjustment of blood pressure are considered and different results have achieved, the main result is that reduction or increase of most involved parameters in adjustment of blood pressure is created because of one or more factors and they affect the system adjustment of blood pressure and cardiovascular system cascading. On the other hand, since in most of women with pre-eclampsia, with pregnancy finish, pre-eclampsia signs have been removed, we must research for the main reasons in disturbing balance in involved factors of adjustment of blood pressure like NO, PGE2, TXA2, Renin Angiotensin endothelia system and malonedialdehyde. (Oyston et al., 2015; akashima et al., 2017; Snydal & Major, 2014).

Conclusion:

Different reasons that causes difficulty in judgment and conclusion relates to methods of measurement and contradiction in the results

that we can help to etiology of this disease with more researches and introduction of reference and favored methods.

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