

## Neopterin and the Anti-Mullerian Hormone's Role in Unexplained Recurrent Pregnancy Loss

Zahraa Nahedh Rafiq<sup>1</sup>, Zuhud Mawlood Mustafa<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Iraqi Board for Medical Specialization

Email: [Alalozzahraa@gmail.com](mailto:Alalozzahraa@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, College of Medicine –University of Tikrit

### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Recurrent pregnancy loss were prevalent complications in pregnancy. Immunological biomarkers as Neopterin used as a marker in recurrent pregnancy loss. Anti-Mullerian hormone is a reliable marker of the ovarian reserve. Therefore, was also considered as a marker to evaluate its role in the recurrent pregnancy losses. This study was conducted to assess whether neopterin and Anti-Mullerian hormone can be used as a marker in the condition of unexplained recurrent pregnancy loss.

**Material's and Methods:** A case control study was done in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Salahdeen general hospital in Tikrit city from first January to thirty of August 2020. One hundred patient enrolled in the study. Study contains two groups: 1- Group A as cases. 2- Group B as control group. The data collection done through: 1- Designed closed and open-ended questionnaire, 2- Laboratory investigations of: Serum Neopterin and Anti-Mullerian hormone levels using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

**Results:** Mean Neopterin level was significantly higher among cases ( $24.3 \pm 10.7$ ) nml/l than control group ( $2.9 \pm 1.1$ ) nml/l. Mean Neopterin level increased with increasing abortion number. It was significantly higher among those with  $\geq 5$  abortions ( $30.02 \pm 10.04$ ) nml/l than those with (3-4) and 2 abortions ( $28.7 \pm 15.29$ ) nml/l and ( $20.1 \pm 0.03$ ) nml/l. The mean Neopterin level increased with increasing age among cases and controls. Among cases was ( $28.7 \pm 12.03$ ) nmol/L among those aged (31-35) year, which was higher than those aged (18-25), and those aged (26-35) years. Mean Anti-Mullerian hormone level was significantly lower among cases ( $0.8 \pm 0.6$ ) ng/ml than control group ( $5.01 \pm 2.7$ ) ng/ml. Mean Anti-Mullerian hormone level was significantly higher among those with 2 abortions ( $1.06 \pm 0.7$ ) ng/ml than those with (3-4) and 5 abortions ( $0.6 \pm 0.56$ ) ng/ml and ( $0.97 \pm 0.4$ ) ng/ml respectively. Among case the mean AMH level was lower among those aged (31-35) years ( $0.5 \pm 0.31$ ) ng/ml than those aged (26-30), and (18-25) years ( $0.8 \pm 0.7$ ) ng/ml, ( $0.97 \pm 0.7$ ) ng/ml, respectively.

**Conclusions:** A statistically significant high Mean Neopterin level among cases and its increased mean Neopterin level with increasing abortion number. A statistically significant low levels of mean Anti-Mullerian hormone level among cases, more reduction in its level with increasing abortion. This pioneer study in Iraq, determined the significant association between the unexplained recurrent pregnancy loss with the increased levels of Neopterin and its effect on Anti-Mullerian hormone that lead to recurrent pregnancy loss.

### ARTICLE DETAILS

**Published On:**  
**03 August 2023**

**Available on:**  
<https://ijmscr.org/>

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Recurrent pregnancy loss (RPL) is considered as an important reproductive health issue, since it affects 2%–5% of couples.<sup>(1)</sup> In Iraq in 2020 it was 16.5%.<sup>(2)</sup> The definition of RPL has long been debated and differs among international societies. For the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology<sup>(3)</sup> and the Royal College of Obstetricians

and Gynecologists, RPL refers to three consecutive pregnancy losses, including non-visualized ones. However, according to the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, it is defined as two or more clinical pregnancy losses (as documented by ultrasonography study or histopathologic examination), but not necessarily consecutive<sup>(4)</sup>. Clinically recognized pregnancy loss is common,

## Neopterin and the Anti-Mullerian Hormone's Role in Unexplained Recurrent Pregnancy Loss

occurring in approximately 15%–25% of pregnancies. The majority of sporadic losses before 10 weeks' gestation result from random numeric chromosome errors, specifically trisomy, monosomy, and polyploidy<sup>(5)</sup>.

Less than 5% of women will experience two consecutive pregnancy loss, and 1% experience  $\geq 3$ . Common established causes include uterine anomalies, antiphospholipid syndrome, hormonal and metabolic disorders, and cytogenetic abnormalities<sup>(6)</sup>. In concern to its pathophysiology, forkhead box D1 (FOXD1) mutations play a critical role in RPL. FOXD1 was defined as a major molecule involved in embryo implantation in mice and humans through regulation of endometrial and placental genes. FOXD1 mutations in human species have been functionally linked to RPL's origin<sup>(6)</sup>.

Unexplained RPL is considered if occur without any anatomic, genetic, endocrine, and immune abnormalities. Unexplained RPL is associated with significant adverse psychological consequences for the couple. Besides the grief following each miscarriage, there is the anxiety and insecurity associated with each positive pregnancy test<sup>(7)</sup>.

A variety of factors used as markers in the condition of unexplained recurrent pregnancy loss, of these markers is neopterin (NP), which emerges as a result of the cellular immunity system activation. NP production and release were observed from human monocytes and macrophages activated by interferon-gamma (IFN- $\gamma$ ) stimulation. Therefore, NP is thought to shed light on the diagnosis of many diseases where T lymphocytes and macrophages are involved in their aetiopathology<sup>(8)</sup>. T-lymphocyte-2 metabolites are increased in a normal pregnancy. While, the increase in T-lymphocyte-1 metabolites may lead to poor prognostic outcomes, such as preeclampsia, spontaneous abortion, missed abortion and RPL<sup>(8)</sup>. On the other hand, Anti-Mullerian hormone (AMH) is a reliable marker of the ovarian reserve. Therefore, AMH was also considered in many studies to evaluate its role in the RPL cases as a marker in these patients<sup>(9)</sup>, with subsequent studies, high levels of NP and low values of AMH in patients with RPL can be used as predictive markers for this clinical situation<sup>(9)</sup>.

Anti-Müllerian hormone, also defined as Müllerian inhibiting substance, is essential for the involution of the Müllerian ducts (the anlagen of the internal female genitalia) in the male fetus. Male sex differentiation is completely dependent on the normal development of testes that produce ample amounts of testosterone and AMH<sup>(10)</sup>. These hormones, produced by Leydig cells and Sertoli cells, respectively, represent two distinct pathways in male sex differentiation. Testosterone is responsible for the differentiation of the Wolffian ducts, urogenital sinus, and external genitalia. By contrast, AMH does not have any known function in female fetal organogenesis<sup>(11)</sup>. This study was conducted to assess whether neopterin (NP) and Anti-Mullerian hormone (AMH) can be used as a marker in the condition of unexplained recurrent pregnancy loss (RPL). To

evaluate the relation between neopterin (NP) and unexplained recurrent pregnancy loss (RPL). To determine the relation between anti-mullerian hormone (AMH) and unexplained recurrent pregnancy loss (RPL). To assess the relation between hematological markers and unexplained recurrent pregnancy loss (RPL).

## 2. MATERIAL'S AND METHODS

### 2.1. Study Design

Case control study, The study was done in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Salahdeen general hospital in Tikrit city. From 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2020 - to the end of August. 2020

### 2.2. Sampling and Sample Size

One hundred patients enrolled in the study which contains 2 groups: Group A as cases consist of 50 women with recurrent abortion, at least 2 consecutive spontaneous miscarriage ( $\leq 13$  week). Group B as control group: fifty women with a minimum one full-term baby without history of pregnancy complications.

### 2.3. Inclusion Criteria

The inclusion criteria included the following: Group A: cases inclusion criteria: history of spontaneous abortion of 2 or more miscarriages at  $\leq 13$  week of gestation. Group B: control group: women with at least one full term baby without complicated pregnancy

### 2.4. Exclusion criteria for cases group

The exclusion criteria include: 1) Patients with obvious cause of recurrent miscarriage e.g hypothyroidism, DM, uterine congenital anomalies, history of pulmonary thromboembolism or deep vein Thrombosis, coagulation defects, thrombophilia. 2) Autoimmune diseases 3) Chromosomal abnormalities. 4) Conditions that cause elevated NP either acute or chronic inflammatory illness 5) Medications history 6) Past history of surgical interventions which affect ovarian reserve (e.g. cystectomy). 7) PCOs

### 2.5. Data Collection

The data collection done through:

- 1- Designed closed and open-ended questionnaire, done by the researcher (Appendix I), by using direct interviewing, contain information about features of patient demography such as, age, parity, gravidity, abortions, past surgical and medical history, congenital anomalies of the uterus e.g bicornate, arcuate and fibroid, family histories and consanguineous marriage, smoking, thrombophilia, PCOs history, and pregnancy complication history.
- 2- Laboratory investigations of: S. Neopterin & AMH levels using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). All venipuncture precaution was taken. The blood chemical; integrity was preserved from the time of collection to the analysis. All patients were investigated for the levels of NP, and AMH therefore; 4ml of blood were collected. For serum separation the samples were centrifuged for 10 min (10,000 rpm/min.). Obtained serums were transferred to 2ml

## Neopterin and the Anti-Mullerian Hormone's Role in Unexplained Recurrent Pregnancy Loss

Eppendorf tubes (Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany) and then preserved in 80 °C freezer until the analyse time. Samples were protected from light during these procedures.

### 2.6. Statistical Analysis

Statistical package of social science (SPSS) Software version 23.0 was used for data analysis. Percentages and mean was used to present the data in tables. Comparison of study groups was carried out using chi-square test for categorical data, and Student's t-test for continuous data. P-value of < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

## 3. RESULTS

### 3.1. General characteristics of study groups

The age distribution shows that most of the cases were age 31-35 years, while most of the controls were aged 26-30 years 20(40%), this relation was statistically not significant as shown in table 3.1.

BMI of the cases were 12(24%) of them 25-24.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, 16 (32%) had BMI 30-35 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, and 8(16%) had >35 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. This was higher than of the control group, 20 (40%), 12(24%), and 4(8%) respectively, this relation was statistically not significant. Family history was positive among 20(40%) of the cases as compared with 8(16%) of the control group, this relation was statistically significant as shown in table 3.1.

Infertility history was higher among cases primary infertility 14(28%), secondary infertility 12(24%), than the control group 6(12%), and 2(4%) respectively, this relation was statistically significant. Consanguinity was positive among 31(62%) of the cases which is higher than controls 17(34%), this relation was statistically significant as shown in table 3.1.

Smoking found among 8(16%) of the cases and 4(8%) of the controls this relation was statistically not significant as shown in table 3.1.

**Table 3.1. General characteristics of study groups**

		cases		Control		Total		P value
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	
Age in years of enrolled women	18-25 Years	12	24%	14	28%	26	26%	0.46
	26-30 Years	16	32%	20	40%	36	36%	
	31-35 Years	22	44%	16	32%	38	38%	
BMI	<18 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	4	8%	2	4%	6	6%	0.3 LikelihoodRatio
	18-24.9 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	10	20%	12	24%	22	22%	
	25-24.9 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	12	24%	20	40%	32	32%	
	30-35 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	16	32%	12	24%	28	28%	
	>35 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	8	16%	4	8%	12	12%	
Family History RPL	Negative	30	60%	42	84%	72	72%	0.008*
	Positive	20	40%	8	16%	28	28%	
Infertility Negative	Negative	24	48%	42	84%	66	66%	0.001*
Infertility positive	primary Infertility	14	28%	6	12%	20	20%	
	secondary Infertility	12	24%	2	4%	14	14%	
Consanguinity	Negative	19	38%	33	44%	22	22%	0.005*
	Positive	31	62%	17	34%	48	48%	
Smoking	No	42	84%	46	92%	88	88%	0.21
	Yes	8	16%	4	8%	12	12%	

\*significant, RPL: recurrent pregnancy loss,

Most of the cases were nulliparous 32(64%), followed by those delivered one baby 16 (32%). while among controls

most of the women had ≥3 child 34 (68%), this relation was statistically significant as shown in table 3.2.

## Neopterin and the Anti-Mullerian Hormone's Role in Unexplained Recurrent Pregnancy Loss

### 3.2. The distribution of study groups according to the number of parity.

Parity	Cases(50)		Control(50)	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
0	32	64	0	0
1	16	32	4	8
2	2	4	12	24
≥3	0	0	34	68
Total	50	100	50	100

$\chi^2=80.343$ ,  $df=3$ ,  $p$  value=0.0001 significant

The frequency of abortions among cases was 2 among 16 (32%), followed by 3 abortions among 14 (28%), 4 abortions

among 14(28%), and  $\geq 5$  abortions among 6 (12%), as shown in figure 3.1.

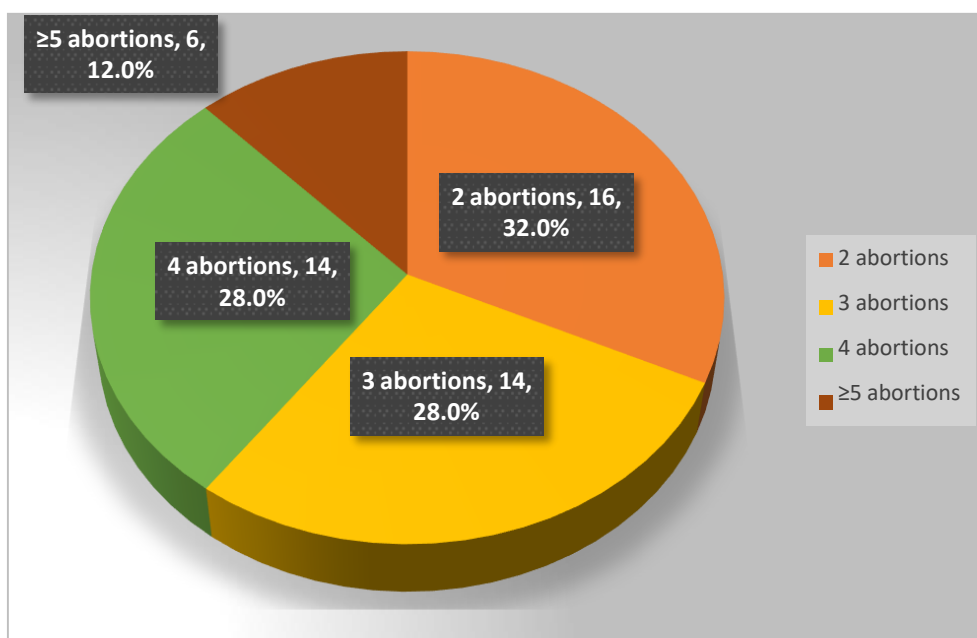


Figure 3.1. The number of abortions among cases group

### 3.2. The neopterin and anti Mullerian hormone relation with recurrent abortion

Mean neopterin nmol/L level was higher among cases

(24.3±10.7) nmol/L than control group (2.9±1.1) nmol/L, this relation was statistically significant as shown in table 3.3.

Table 3.3. The neopterin level among the Study Groups

Study Group	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean± SD	student test t P value
Cases	50	10.2	49.11	24.3±10.7	0.001*
Control	50	1.12	5.39	2.9±1.1	

\* highly significant.

The mean neopterin level increased with increasing abortion number. It was higher among those with  $\geq 5$  abortions (30.02±10.04) nmol/L than those with (3-4) and two abortions

(28.7±15.29) nmol/L and (20.1±0.03) respectively, this relation was statistically significant, as shown in table 3.4.

## Neopterin and the Anti-Mullerian Hormone's Role in Unexplained Recurrent Pregnancy Loss

**Table 3.4. The relation of neopterin level and number of abortions among case group.**

No. of abortions	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean± SD	P value ANOVA
2	16	10.2	41.9	20.1±0.03	0.004*
3-4	28	18.15	48.45	28.7±15.29	
≥5	6	21.02	49.11	30.02±10.04	
Total	50	10.2	49.11	24.25	

\*significant

The mean neopterin level increased with increasing age among cases and controls. Among cases was (28.7±12.03) nmol/L among those aged (31-35) year, which was higher

than those aged (18-25), and those aged (26-35) years, this relation was statistically significant as shown in table 3.5.

**Table 3.5. The relation of neopterin level and age among both groups.**

Age	cases	controls
	Mean± SD	Mean± SD
18-25 years	18.2±5.4	2.5±0.8
26-30 years	22.7±9.3	2.8±1.5
31-35 years	28.7±12.03	3.25±0.8
Total	24.3±10.7	2.85±1.13
P value ANOVA	0.016	0.19

Mean AMH level was lower among cases (0.8±0.6) ng/ml than control group (5.01±2.7) ng/ml, this relation was

statistically significant as shown in table 3.6.

**Table 3.6. The AMH of the Study Groups**

Study group	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean± SD
Cases	50	0.06	2.3	0.8±0.6
Control	50	1.8	11.8	5.01±2.7

t-student test  $t = -10.88$ ,  $df = 98$ ,  $P$  value = 0.001 highly significant.

The mean AMH level ng/ml was higher among those with two abortions (1.06±0.7) ng/ml than those with (3-4) and five abortions (0.6±0.56) ng/ml and (0.97±0.4) ng/ml

respectively, this relation was statistically significant, as shown in table 3.7

**Table 3.7. The relation of AMH level ng/ml and number of abortions among case group.**

No. of abortions	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean± SD	P value ANOVA
2	16	0.06	2	1.06±0.7	0.04*
3-4	28	0.12	2.3	0.6±0.56	
≥5	6	0.4	1.26	0.97±0.4	
Total	50	0.06	2.3	0.78±0.6	

\*significant

Among case the mean AMH level was lower among those aged (31-35) years (0.5±0.31) ng/ml than those aged (26-30), and (18-25) years (0.8±0.7) ng/ml, (0.97±0.7) ng/ml,

respectively, this relation was statistically significant, as shown in table 3.8.

## Neopterin and the Anti-Mullerian Hormone's Role in Unexplained Recurrent Pregnancy Loss

**Table 3.8. The relation of AMH level and age among both groups.**

		cases	controls
		Mean± SD	Mean± SD
AMH	18-25 years	0.97±0.7	6.5±3.1
	26-30 years	0.8±0.7	4.07±1.7
	31-35 years	0.5±0.31	3.98±1.9
	Total	0.78±0.6	5.0±2.7
P value ANOVA		0.07*	0.004*

\*significant

### 3.3. The Hematological Characteristics of the Study Groups

The mean WBC was higher among cases group (11.05±4.8) (/mm<sup>3</sup> ×10<sup>3</sup>) than control group (9.7±3.8) (/mm<sup>3</sup> ×10<sup>3</sup>), this difference was not statistically significant. Mean lymphocyte % among cases was (24.6±12.6), compared to the control group (25.9±16.7) this relation was not statistically significant. Mean lymphocyte count among cases was 2.5±1.6 × 10<sup>3</sup> lymphocytes/mcL, compared to the control group 5.2±6.1 ×10<sup>3</sup> lymphocytes/mcL, this relation was statistically significant. Mean granulocyte % among cases was (64.8±15.2), compared to the control group (62.8±16.1), this relation was not statistically significant. Mean

granulocyte count among cases was 7.1±3.9×10<sup>3</sup> lymphocytes/mcL, compared to the control group 6.6±3.4× 10<sup>3</sup> lymphocytes/mcL, this relation was not statistically significant. Mean neutrophil /Lymphocyte Ratio among cases was (3.7±1.1), compared to the control group (3.1±0.4), this relation was statistically significant. Mean PLT among cases was (255.5±75.2), compared to the control group (216.2±62.1), this relation was statistically significant. As shown in table 3.9. Mean platelet/lymphocyte Ratio among cases was (127.3±51.3), compared to the control group (94.2±44.1), this relation was statistically significant. As shown in table 3.9.

### 3.9. The Hematological Characteristics of the Study Groups

Hematological characteristics	Cases	Control	P value (t)
	Mean ±SD	Mean ±SD	
WBC (/mm <sup>3</sup> ×10 <sup>3</sup> )	11.05±4.8	9.7±3.8	0.1(1.5)
Lymphocyte %	24.6±12.6	25.9±16.7	0.6(0.4)
Lymphocyte count (10 <sup>3</sup> lymphocytes/mcL)	2.5±1.6	5.2±6.1	0.004(2.96)*
Granulocyte %	64.8±15.2	62.8±16.1	0.5(-0.63)
Granulocyte Count(10 <sup>3</sup> Granulocyte /mcL)	7.1±3.9	6.6±3.4	0.4(0.67)
Neutrophil /Lymphocyte Ratio	3.7±1.1	3.1±0.4	0.0005( 3.6)*
PLT	255.5±75.2	216.2±62.1	0.005 (2.8)*
Platelet/Lymphocyte Ratio	127.3±51.3	94.2±44.1	0.0008(3.45)*

\*Significant

## 4. DISCUSSION

### 4.1. General characteristics of study groups

Most of the cases were non-significantly had older age 31-35 years (44%), than controls were aged 26-30 years (40%), this agree with Rifat AG and Salman YJ<sup>(12)</sup> (2017) in Kirkuk in

Iraq found that most of the patient with recurrent pregnancy loss aged >35 years 59% and those < 35 years was 41% , while of the women without recurrent loss 55%, 45% respectively, further more found that this difference was not significant.<sup>(13)</sup> Oğlak SC *et al* (2020) who found a non-significant difference



## Neopterin and the Anti-Mullerian Hormone's Role in Unexplained Recurrent Pregnancy Loss

between the two groups in terms of age 23 and 26 respectively, and BMI ( $23.12 \pm 3.66$ ) kg/m<sup>2</sup>, and ( $23.78 \pm 3.82$ ) kg/m<sup>2</sup> respectively<sup>(64)</sup>

Also Siristatidis C *et al*<sup>(14)</sup> (2019) whom found a non-significant difference regarding age and BMI. The mean BMI among those with abortion and those with live birth was ( $22.2 \pm 3.0$ ) kg/m<sup>2</sup>, and, ( $23.5 \pm 3.5$ ) kg/m<sup>2</sup> respectively, common agegroup among those with abortion was 30-34 years (53.8%) versus (46.8%) among those without recurrent abortion.

Chaithra PT, *et al*<sup>(15)</sup> (2015) whom considered increased mother age as a major inducing reason for RPL. Mother age at delivery is a risk factor of Down syndrome and has a major effect in recurrent pregnancy loss.<sup>(15)</sup>

There were significant difference regarding parity most of the cases were nulliparous 32 (64%), while most of the controls had  $\geq 3$  child 34 (68%). This goes with Sencan H *et al* whom found statistically significant difference in the median of parity 1.0 (0–3) and 2.0 (1–4) of those with pregnancy loss and control group, respectively<sup>(16)</sup> while disagree with Oğlak SC *et al*<sup>(13)</sup> (2020) who found a non significant difference in relation to parity. The increased parity among control group is an expected finding as those without miscarriage and our community preferred having more children.

### 4.2. The Neopterin relation with recurrent pregnancy loss

Mean Neopterin level was higher significantly among cases ( $24.3 \pm 10.7$ ) than control group ( $2.9 \pm 1.1$ ). This concomitant with previous studies that found a significant higher level of Neopterin among women with recurrent pregnancy loss, as Sencan H *et al*<sup>(16)</sup> (2019) who found significantly higher level of Neopterin in the patient group ( $1.69 \pm 0.486$  vs.  $1.38 \pm 0.431$  ng/ml). Also agrees with Ünüvar S, and Tanrıverdi Z<sup>(17)</sup> (2017) found that mean serum neopterin among those with recurrent pregnancy loss were  $16.47 \pm 0.095$  nmol/L higher than among control group ( $6.14 \pm 0.041$ ) nmol/L. Another study done by Kuon R J *et al*<sup>(18)</sup> (2015) reported higher level of Neopterin among those with recurrent pregnancy loss ( $6.82 \pm 0.46$ ) than those without loss ( $5.38 \pm 0.25$ ).

Neopterin is a molecule that demonstrates increased inflammatory reaction in infectious and autoimmune disease. This increment may be related to presence of some sort of autoimmune disease in those with recurrent pregnancy loss, or may be related to subclinical endometritis, the exclusion of those patient supported the relation of neopterin with recurrent pregnancy loss.<sup>(18)</sup>

Siwetz M *et al*.<sup>(19)</sup> 2016 reported that an increase in humoral immune response and a depression of cell-mediated immune response are essential for healthy pregnancy. Decidual T-lymphocyte-2 (Th-2) products, is well known to rise in uncomplicated pregnancies. In cases of preeclampsia, missed abortion, spontaneous pregnancy loss, and recurrent pregnancy loss, The T-lymphocyte-1 increases (T lymphocyte 2), this fact also support findings of this study.

The effect of immune mechanisms was also associated with the gestational period during which the abortion occurred. During preimplantation and until the end of implantation, cell-mediated immunity is said to be responsible for early abortion. Immunocompetent decidual cells or cytokines had been reported to be responsible for these immunological mechanisms. The production of IFN- $\gamma$  activates decidual macrophages, causing injury by stimulating the production of nitric oxide and TNF- $\alpha$ , which cause apoptosis and inhibit the secretion of granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factors from the uterine epithelium. Th1 cytokines, which are secreted as a result of IFN- $\gamma$  activity, result in the termination of pregnancy through embryo and trophoblast toxicity.<sup>(17)</sup>

The mean neopterin level increased with increasing age among cases and controls. Among cases was ( $28.7 \pm 12.03$ ) among those aged (31-35) year, which was higher than those aged (18-25) ( $18.2 \pm 5.4$ ), and those aged (26-35) years ( $22.7 \pm 9.3$ ). This goes with Sencan H *et al*<sup>(16)</sup> (2019) and No RG<sup>(20)</sup> (2011) who found a significant increase in age progresses and increase in NP levels. But disagree with Ünüvar S *et al*<sup>(17)</sup> (2019) found a non-significant correlation with age. There was a negative correlation between serum neopterin level and age in both the control ( $R=0.0774$ ,  $p=0.6236$ ) and recurrent abortion groups ( $R=0.1415$ ,  $p=0.2089$ ). This may be explained by what found by No RG reported that the risk of abortion increases after each consecutive pregnancy loss and the prognosis worsens with increased maternal age. In advanced age pregnancies, the risk of abortion increases with the decrease in the number and quality of oocyte present. The risk is higher particularly in women over the age of 35 year.<sup>(20)</sup>

### 4.3. The anti Mullerian hormone relation with recurrent miscarriage

Mean AMH level was significantly lower among cases ( $0.8 \pm 0.6$ ) than control group ( $5.01 \pm 2.7$ ). This goes with Pils S *et al*<sup>(21)</sup> (2016) whom reported that Anti-Mullerian hormone was significantly lower in women with idiopathic recurrent miscarriage (median 1.2 ng/ml) than in women with explained recurrent miscarriage (median 2.0 ng/ml). Another study in 2019<sup>(16)</sup> reported that mean level of AMH ( $1.38 \pm 0.683$  ng/ml) in the patient's group was significantly lower than the control group ( $1.84 \pm 0.718$  ng/ml).

The mean AMH level was significantly higher among those with two abortions ( $1.06 \pm 0.7$ ) than those with (3-4) and five abortions ( $0.6 \pm 0.56$ ) and ( $0.97 \pm 0.4$ ) respectively, this goes with Sencan H *et al*<sup>(16)</sup> (2019) who found a significant decrease in AMH with increasing age of abortions, patient with > two abortions ( $1.78 \pm .612$ ), and those >3 abortions was ( $1.13 \pm .606$ ). Pils S *et al*<sup>(21)</sup> (2016) whom found that further miscarriages occurred in whom a higher number of previous miscarriages was predictive (OR 3.568, 95% CI 1.457–8.738).

This may be explained by what Choi TY *et al*<sup>(22)</sup> (2014) who found, that a high rate of about 5–75% of miscarriages is associated with embryonic chromosomal abnormalities, also

## Neopterin and the Anti-Mullerian Hormone's Role in Unexplained Recurrent Pregnancy Loss

caused by decreased oocyte quality. Various studies have demonstrated increased rates of chromosomal abnormalities in embryos derived from couples with RPL. Among case group the mean AMH level was significantly lower among those with older aged (31-35) years ( $0.5 \pm 0.31$ ) than those aged (26-30), (18-25) years ( $0.8 \pm 0.7$ ), ( $0.97 \pm 0.7$ ). This goes with Sencan H *et al* <sup>(16)</sup> 2019 who found non significantly decrease in AMH with increasing age, it was ( $1.52 \pm .702$ ) among those aged 18-25 years, while was ( $1.30 \pm .752$ ) among those aged 31-35 years.

This results disagree with Revelli, A *et al* <sup>(23)</sup> (2016) who confirmed that the affection of pregnancy success by age and not the small difference in AMH level using logistic regression. Which was significantly affected by age, but not by small differences in AMH level. A large prospective study done by Kedem A *et al* (2013) reported that AMH in its lower range (0.2–1 ng/ml) was a reliable quantitative marker of the ovarian follicular pool, but performed poorly as a predictor of pregnancy. Of note, no pregnancy was obtained in women above 42 years, suggesting that age, rather than AMH, is the main factor to be Considered when dealing with patients with AMH in such a low range.<sup>(24)</sup>

### 4.4. The Hematological Characteristics of The Study Groups

There was a non-significant difference between cases and controls regarding WBC it was  $11.05 \pm 4.8$  among cases and  $9.7 \pm 3.8$  among control group. This goes with Siristatidis C *et al* <sup>(14)</sup> (2019) who found the same finding ( $7.71 \pm 2.16$ ), and ( $7.62 \pm 2.54$ ) respectively among cases and controls.

In this study the mean Lymphocyte count among cases was  $2.5 \pm 1.6 \times 10^3$  lymphocytes/mcL, which was significantly lower than control group  $5.2 \pm 6.1 \times 10^3$  lymphocytes/mcL, this goes with Oğlak S C *et al* <sup>(13)</sup> (2020) found significant lower lymphocyte count among females with RPL  $1.6 \times 10^3$  lymphocytes/mcL, versus  $2.3 \times 10^3$  lymphocytes/mcL for normal pregnancy. But this disagree with Siristatidis C *et al* <sup>(65)</sup> (2019) found a non-significant difference regarding lymphocyte count among those with live birth and those with abortion ( $2.19 \pm 0.43$ ), and ( $2.75 \pm 2.55$ ) respectively.

Mean Neutrophil /Lymphocyte Ratio was significantly higher among cases ( $3.7 \pm 1.1$ ), than control group ( $3.1 \pm 0.4$ ). This goes with Oğlak S C *et al* <sup>(13)</sup> (2020) found significant higher NLR among cases than controls 3.5, and 1.9 respectively, and with Charalampos Siristatidis *et al* <sup>(14)</sup> (2019)  $13.82 \pm 4.81$ ,  $12.62 \pm 1.03$  respectively. This may be explained by the fact that neutrophil /lymphocyte Ratio is an inflammatory response indicator. It was reported that high endometrial cytokines, leukocytes, and chemokines were associated with inflow of dendritic cells, macrophages, and pro inflammatory cytokines. This process induce a good effect by mode of trophoblast migration or by attract macrophages and dendritic cells to the site of implantation, those will induce more chemokines and cytokines production, in its turn

recruiting the implantation site with dendritic cells and macrophages<sup>(26-28)</sup>. Mean PLT among cases was significantly higher among cases ( $255.5 \pm 75.2$ ), than control group ( $216.2 \pm 62.1$ ), this goes with Al-Aghbary AA *et al* <sup>(29)</sup> (2018) who found that Platelets count ( $253.80 \pm 64.60$ ) among those with recurrent loss, while among normal pregnancy it was ( $213.60 \pm 71.90$ ). While Oğlak SC and Aydın MF <sup>(13)</sup> (2020) who found non-significant increase in median platelet count among those with RPL and normal pregnancy (264.1), and (257.8) respectively.

Mean platelet/lymphocyte Ratio among cases was ( $127.3 \pm 51.3$ ), compared to the control group ( $94.2 \pm 44.1$ ), Oğlak SC <sup>(64)</sup> (2020) found significant increase in Platelet/Lymphocyte Ratio among those with RPL and normal pregnancy (150.7), (84.1) respectively. These differences are similar to that recently reported in India by Meena *et al* <sup>(30)</sup> (2017), in Turkey by Avcioglu *et al* <sup>(31)</sup> (2014), and Dundar *et al* <sup>(32)</sup> (2015). There were many researches related these relation to the platelet indices and the increased risk of thrombosis. It was considered as multifactorial and it related to hemodilution, increased platelet consumption and increased platelet aggregation driven by the increased level of thromboxane A<sub>2</sub><sup>(33)</sup>.

### CONCLUSIONS

1. High levels of NP and low values of AMH in patients with RPL can be used as predictive markers for this clinical situation.
2. If the causes of high levels of NP and low levels of AMH can be better illuminated, new treatments towards these causes can be developed to help such patients become childbearing.
3. The number of abortion increased with increased neopterin level and decreased AMH.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. There is a need for further studies including molecular and genetic examinations to clarify the etiopathogenesis.
2. Further studies with large number of patients and multi-centered are wanted.
3. Further studies wanted to find out an international assay standard for AMH measurements.
4. Neopterin and anti mullerian hormone should be included in the protocol of recurrent pregnancy loss management.

### REFERENCES

- I. Priya PK, Mishra VV, Roy P, Patel H. A study on balanced chromosomal translocations in couples with recurrent pregnancy loss. *Journal of human reproductive sciences* 2018; 11(4):337.
- II. Abdulrahman I, Jawad A, Amin N. Recurrent pregnancy loss at gynecology and obstetrical hospital in Duhok Province. *International Journal of Research in Medical Sciences* August 2020; 8(9): DO - 10.18203/2320-6012.ijrms20203511



## Neopterin and the Anti-Mullerian Hormone's Role in Unexplained Recurrent Pregnancy Loss

- III. Kolte A, Bernardi L, Christiansen O, Quenby S, Farquharson R, Goddijn M, et al. Terminology for pregnancy loss prior to viability: a consensus statement from the ESHRE early pregnancy special interest group. *Human Reproduction* 2015; 30(3):495-8.
- IV. Medicine PCotASfR. Evaluation and treatment of recurrent pregnancy loss: a committee opinion. *Fertility and sterility* 2012; 98(5):1103-11.
- V. Rull K, Nagirnaja L, Laan M. Genetics of recurrent miscarriage: challenges, current knowledge, future directions. *Frontiers in genetics* 2012; 3: 34.
- VI. Barišić A, Perez N, Hodžić A, Krpina MG, Ostojić S, Peterlin B. Genetic variation in the maternal vitamin D receptor FokI gene as a risk factor for recurrent pregnancy loss. *The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine*. 2019:1-6.
- VII. Idowu D, Merrion K, Wemmer N, Mash JG, Pettersen B, Kijacic D, et al. Pregnancy outcomes following 24-chromosome preimplantation genetic diagnosis in couples with balanced reciprocal or Robertsonian translocations. *Fertility and sterility*. 2015; 103(4):1037-42.
- VIII. Michalak Ł, Bulska M, Strzabala K, Szcześniak P. Neopterin as a marker of cellular immunological response. *Postepy higieny i medycyny doswiadczalnej (Online)*. 2017 Aug 1;71(1):727-36.
- IX. Sencan H, Keskin N, Khatib G. The role of neopterin and anti-Mullerian hormone in unexplained recurrent pregnancy loss—a case-control study. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*. 2019; 39(7):996-9.
- X. Lindhardt Johansen M, Hagen CP, Johannsen TH, Main KM, Picard J-Y, Jørgensen A, et al. Anti-müllerian hormone and its clinical use in pediatrics with special emphasis on disorders of sex development. *Int J Endocrinol* 2013; 2013:198698-.
- XI. Rey RA, Grinspon RP. Normal male sexual differentiation and aetiology of disorders of sex development. *Best Practice & Research Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*. 2011;25(2):221-38.
- XII. Rifat AG, Salman YJ. Anti-Mullerian Hormone in Women with Recurrent Miscarriage. *The Medical Journal of Tikrit University*. 2017; 23(1): 33-43.
- XIII. Oğlak SC, Aydın MF. Are neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio and platelet to lymphocyte ratio clinically useful for the prediction of early pregnancy loss?. *Ginekologia Polska*. 2020; 91(9):524-7.
- XIV. Siristatidis C, Christoforaki V, Zafeiriou Z, Mastorakos G, Vrantza T, Daskalakis G. First trimester neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (NLR) and pregnancy outcomes in medically assisted reproduction (MAR): a case control study. *Gynecological Endocrinology* 2019; 35(5):434-8.
- XV. Chaithra PT, Kavitha P, Sreenivasa G, Malini SS. Recurrent Pregnancy Loss— Is It Advanced Age or Advanced Maternal Mother's Age of Young Women a Major Contributing Factor. *IOSR-JDMS*. 2015;14(4):81-7.
- XVI. Sencan H, Keskin N, Khatib G. The role of neopterin and anti-Mullerian hormone in unexplained recurrent pregnancy loss—a case-control study. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* 2019 Oct 3;39(7):996-9.
- XVII. Ünüvar S, Tanriverdi Z. Neopterin And Recurrent Spontaneous Abortion (Rsa): The Effect Of Cellular Immune System Activation On Subsequent Pregnancy. In *CBU International Conference Proceedings* 2017; 5: 1028-1031.
- XVIII. Kuon RJ, Schaumann J, Goeggel T, Strowitzki T, Sadeghi M, Opelz G, Daniel V, Toth B. Patients with idiopathic recurrent miscarriage show higher levels of DR+ activated T-cells that are less responsive to mitogens. *Journal of reproductive immunology* 2015;112: 82-7.
- XIX. Siwetz M, Blaschitz A, El-Heliebi A, Hiden U, Desoye G, Huppertz B, Gauster M. TNF- $\alpha$  alters the inflammatory secretion profile of human first trimester placenta. *Laboratory investigation*. 2016; 96(4):428-38
- XXI. No RG. The investigation and treatment of couples with recurrent first-trimester and second-trimester miscarriage. *RCOG: London, UK*. 2011: 75-81.
- XXII. Pils S, Promberger R, Springer S, Joura E, Ott J. Decreased Ovarian Reserve Predicts Inexplicability of Recurrent Miscarriage? A Retrospective Analysis. *PLoS ONE* (2016); 11(9): e0161606. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0161606>
- XXIII. Choi TY, Lee HM, Park WK, Jeong SY, Moon HS. Spontaneous abortion and recurrent miscarriage: a comparison of cytogenetic diagnosis in 250 cases. *Obstet Gynecol Sci* (2014); 57(6):518–525
- XXIV. Revelli A, Biasoni V, Gennarelli G, Canosa S, Dalmaso P, Benedetto C. IVF results in patients with very low serum AMH are significantly affected by chronological age. *Journal of assisted reproduction and genetics* 2016; 33(5):603-9.
- XXV. Kedem A, Haas J, Geva LL, Yerushalmi G, Gilboa Y, Kanety H.. Ongoing pregnancy rates in women with low and extremely low AMH levels. A multivariate analysis of 769 cycles. *PLoS ONE*. 2013; 8:e81629
- XXVI. Granot I, Gnainsky Y, Dekel N. Endometrial inflammation and effect on implantation improvement and pregnancy outcome. *mReproduction*. 2012; 144:661–668
- XXVII. Christoforaki V, Zafeiriou Z, Daskalakis G, Katasos T, Siristatidis C. First trimester neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio (NLR) and pregnancy outcome. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* 2020;

## Neopterin and the Anti-Mullerian Hormone's Role in Unexplained Recurrent Pregnancy Loss

- 40(1):59-64.
- XXVIII. Templeton AJ, Ace O, McNamara MG, Al-Mubarak M, Vera-Badillo FE,
- XXIX. Hermanns T, Šeruga B, Ocana A, Tannock IF, Amir E. Prognostic role of platelet to lymphocyte ratio in solid tumors: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention Biomarkers* 2014; 23(7):1204-12.
- XXX. Krenn-Pilko S, Langsenlehner U, Thurner EM, Stojakovic T, Pichler M, Gerger A, Kapp KS, Langsenlehner T. The elevated preoperative platelet-to- lymphocyte ratio predicts poor prognosis in breast cancer patients. *British journal of cancer* 2014; 110(10): 2524-30.
- XXXI. Al-Aghbary AA, Almorish MA, Jaffar DW, Al-Kahiry WM. Platelet indices in evaluation of patients with recurrent pregnancy loss. *Asian Pacific Journal of Reproduction* 2018; 7(1):15
- XXXII. Meena R, Meena ML, Meena P, Meena R. Association of increased platelet distribution width and red cell distribution width with recurrent pregnancy loss. *Int J Reprod Contracept Obstet Gynecol* 2017; 6(3): 1083- 1086.
- XXXIII. Avcıoğlu SN, Altınkaya SÖ, Küçü M, Sezer SD, Yüksel H. The association between platelet indices and clinical parameters in recurrent pregnancy loss. *Gynecol Obstet Reprod Med* 2014; 20(20): 146-149.
- XXXIV. Dundar O, Pektas MK, Bodur S, Bakır LV, Cetin A. Recurrent pregnancy loss is associated with increased red cell distribution width and platelet distribution width. *J Obstet Gynaecol Res* 2015; 41(4): 551-558.
- XXXV. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Practice bulletin no. 166: thrombocytopenia in pregnancy. *Obstetrics and gynecology*. 2016; 128(3):e43-53