

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The aim of this work is to measure the maternal and umbilical cord plasma renin activity levels in normotensive pregnant women and women with pregnancy induced hypertension, in order to determine if there is a significant differences or not between the both groups.

Forty pregnant women attending the obstetrics and Gynaecology department of Mansoura General Hospital and Mansoura University Hospital were chosen for this study. Twenty women with normotensive blood pressure (normotensive pregnancy) and twenty women with blood pressure equal to or exceeding 140/90 mmHg with proteinuria and oedema of lower limb (pregnancy induced hypertension).

These women were subjected to the following tests :

- (A) Estimation of plasma renin activity in maternal venous blood by radio-immunoassay for both groups.
- (B) Estimation of plasma renin activity in umbilical cord blood by radio immunoassay for both groups. Statistical analysis of the data revealed the following results :
 - (1) Maternal plasma renin activity is markedly increased during normotensive pregnancy.

- (2) Maternal plasma renin activity is obviously suppressed during pregnancy induced hypertension in comparison to normotensive pregnancy ($P < 0.01$).
- (3) The umbilical cord plasma renin activity was higher than the maternal plasma renin activity on both groups (the normotensive pregnancy group and the pregnancy induced hypertension group).
- (4) The umbilical cord plasma renin activity in the fetus born to hypertensive mothers was lower than that in foetus born to normotensive mothers. These differences did not achieve statistical significance.