SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Uterine leiomyomata, commonly known as fibroids, are benign smooth muscle tumours of the uterus. Estimates of leiomyoma prevalence range from 15% to 20% of women between the age of 30 to 40 years ***(Medical encyclopedia, 2006)***. Leiomyomata have been identified as one of the leading causes of hospitalization for gynaecological disorders and hysterectomy ***(Baird and Dunson, 2003)***.

Dietary fat intake, high body mass index (BMI), oestrogen, and progesterone are well known risk factors for myoma uteri ***(Marshall et al., 1998)***.

Leptin is a protein encoded by the ob gene and appears to play an important role in energy expenditure, neuroendocrine-reproductive systems, and immune response ***(Lord et al., 1998)***. Its concentration is related to mass of adipose tissue ***(Maffai et al., 1996).*** All risk factors of myoma may also affect serum leptin ***(Fried et al., 2000).***

This study was designed to evaluate the relation between serum leptin level and the presence of uterine leiomyoma.

This study was carried out on seventy women. Thirty five patients had uterine leiomyoma and thirty five normal women. Those women were clinically assessed and various investigations in the form of transvaginal ultrasonography, laboratory investigation and hormonal assay were done to them.

The results of the present study revealed that serum leptin levels were significantly higher in the myoma group than in the control group

($p < 0.001$). There was also statistically significant difference in the ratio of leptin/BMI between the two groups ($p < 0.001$).

From our results we may conclude that serum leptin level may be an indicator for the presence of uterine myoma in selected patients. large, multicenteric study should be done before reaching this conclusion.