
Maternal and umbilical cord plasma renin activity in pregnancy induced hypertension

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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 difference 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 radioimmunoassay for both groups. (B) Estimation of plasma renin activity in umbilical cord blood by radioimmunoassay 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