

Relationship between Uricemia and Other Biochemical Markers with the Materno-Fetal Complications during Pre-Eclampsia

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Abstract

Goal: Determining the place of Uricemia associated with other biochemical makers in the prediction of fetal-maternal complications during preeclampsia.

Material and method: This is a prospective, cross-sectional study of 75 pre-eclamptic women in three maternities in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, during the January to December 2013. The values of the following biochemical markers: uricemia, proteinuria and creatinemia were correlated with maternal and fetal prognosis. **Results:** This study showed that hyper uricemia associated with massive proteinuria and a high creatinine level correlated with an unfavorable pregnancy outcome and the occurrence of major materno-fetal complications such as eclampsia (X-squared = 24.3598, ddl = 2, p-value = 0.000005) and low birth weight (p = 0.001, R² = 0.08). **Conclusion:** In view of these results, it appears necessary to ensure these biochemical markers systematically in the monitoring of pre-eclampsia.

Keywords

Uricemia, Biochemical Markers, Maternal-Fetal Complications, Pre-Eclampsia

1. Introduction

Pre-eclampsia is a pregnancy disorder occurring from the 20th week of gestation, associating arterial hypertension (HTA), proteinuria and edema [1] [2] [3] [4]. It is one of the most deadly obstetric conditions, and his severity is related to multiple maternal and fetal complications which may appear during this condition as the HELLP syndrom, eclampsia, hemostasis disorders, renal insufficiency, pulmonary acute edema, retinal detachment, retroplacental hematoma, liver sub

capsular rupture, hepatocellular insufficiency, acute fetal distress, hypotrophy, prematurity, perinatal asphyxia. Pre eclampsia is therefore one of the major causes of maternal and fetal morbidity and mortality in the world, but especially in the developing countries, where it is responsible for almost 10% to 25% of maternal deaths in maternity [5] [6].

Many biological markers have been studied both to reflect the degree of severity of the disease and to predict the occurrence of the some complications. An association between hyperuricemia and materno-fetal complications was noted in these studies. A uric acid level greater than 6 mg/dl or a rapid increase in this parameter is often associated with the occurrence of maternal and fetal complications such as eclampsia, retro placental hematoma, intrauterine growth retardation and low birth weight [7]-[13].

The proteinuria greater than 1 g/24h is the expression of the severe form of hypertension in pregnancy, and has a pejorative value, as it reflects the severity of renal involvement [14] [15]. Similarly, an increase in creatinine levels results in renal insufficiency, the main cause of which is the reduction of glomerular filtration and marked renal plasma flux in severe preeclampsia [16] [17].

The prevalence of pre-eclampsia is estimated at 8.5% in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo [4], where the disease is one of the main causes of maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality. However, very few studies have focused on the value of biological markers in the prediction of complications occurring in this disease. The present study proposes to determine the relationship between uricemia associated with other markers such as creatinemia, proteinuria with materno fetal complications in pre-eclamptics pregnancy in Kinshasa.

2. Material and Methods

This cross-sectional and observation study included 75 pre-eclamptics pregnant women, followed at prenatal consultation in three tertiary-level maternities in Kinshasa (DR Congo): Kinshasa University Clinics, The General Reference Hospital of Kinshasa and the Maternity of Kintambo.

Inclusion criteria

Pregnant women who responded to definition of preeclampsia and gave an informed consent were included in the present study.

Pre-eclampsia has been defined according to the criteria set by the High Blood Pressure Education Program (NHBPEP) by a blood pressure greater than 140/90 mmHg after 20th week of gestation, associated with a significant proteinuria greater than 300 mg/24 hours [18].

Exclusion criteria

Pregnant women carriers of disease that can affect the biological markers studied (diabetes, drop, renal failure, chronic hypertension) were excluded from the present study.

Eclampsia was confirmed by the occurrence of convulsions often preceded by headache, visual disturbances and epigastric pains in the absence of cranial

trauma, anterior epileptic disease and other neurological Convulsive crisis.

Acute renal failure was defined as an increase in serum creatinine (≥ 1.3 mg/dl). Low birth weight was defined as a newborn with a weight of less than 2.5 kg at birth [19]. In utero death results in the absence of fetal cardiac activity. As regards biological parameters values, the normality threshold used in this study was 2.6 - 5.5 mg/dl for uricemia [20], 0.5 - 1.3 mg/dl for creatinemia, and Levels below 300 mg for 24-hour proteinuria [21].

The chi-square test made to search possible links between various variables (uricemia, proteinuria, maternal complication and mode of delivery). The correlation measure between variables (weight of the new born, uricemia, proteinuria) was calculated using the PEARSON coefficient, with a significance level set at $P < 0.05$.

The present study obtained the approbation of the Ethics Committee of Public Health School of DRC under the /ESP/CE/086/13 registration number.

3. Results

During this study period, 75 pre-eclampsics pregnant were included.

The mean age was 31 years (15 - 46 years). The most affected group was 30 - 34 years as shown in **Table 1**. The mean gestational age was 34 weeks **Table 1**. Mean values of biological parameters in all of these pre-eclampsics were as follows: 5.9 mg/dl for uricemia, 1.1 mg/dl for creatinemia, and 1.3 g/24h for Proteinuria of 24 hours (**Table 2**).

Sixty of one hundred pre-eclampsics had delivered by caesarean section. Of these, 55% had hyper-uricemia. The relationship is established between hyper uricemia and caesarean delivery (**Table 3**).

We noted in this study that eclampsia and acute renal failure were maternal complications associated with hyperuricemia (**Table 4**). Pre-eclampsics women with hyperuricemia had a high probability of having low-weight children (**Table 5**).

A significant positive correlation ($R^2 = 0.14$, $p = 0.003$) was established be-

Table 1. Main characteristics of the pregnant women enrolled in the study.

	minimum	maximum	mean
Age women (years)	15	46	31 \pm 7
Gestational age, (weeks)	21	42	33 \pm 5
Parity	1	6	2 \pm 1

Table 2. Mean serum values for uric acid, creatinine and protenuria.

	minimum	maximum	mean
Uric acid (mg/dl)	2.5	14	5.9 \pm 2.6
creatinine (mg/dl)	0.5	6.7	1.14 \pm 1.1
protenura/24h	0.50	10	1.28 \pm 1.2

Table 3. Association between mode of delivery and uric acid levels (n = 75).

Uricémie (mg/dL)	Mode of delivery	
	Normal (%)	Cesarean section
≤5.5	32	26,7
>5.5	8	32,9
Total	40	59,6

X-squared 6.880, ddl = 1, P-Value = 0.008

Table 4. Association between maternal complications and uric acid levels (n= 75).

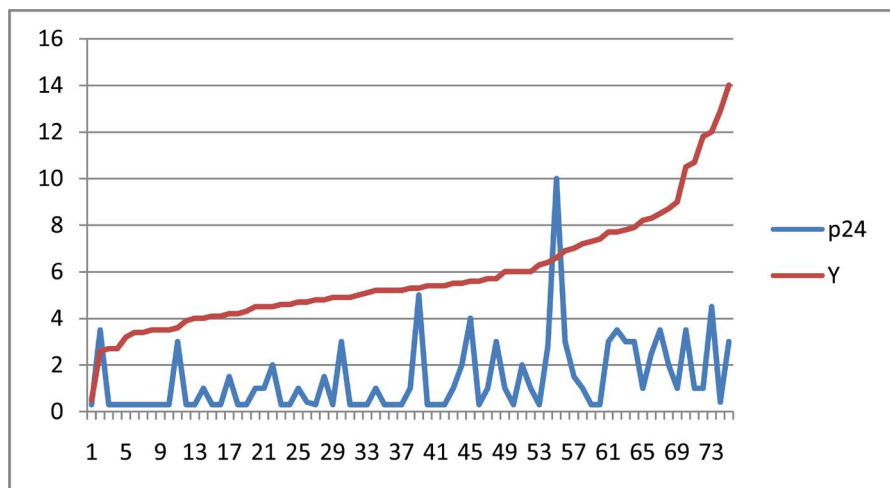
uric acid levels	maternal complications			Total
	Acute renal failure	Eclampsia	none complications	
≤5.5	1	1	38	40
>5.5	5	12	12	29
Total	6	13	50	69

X-squared = 24.3598, ddl = 2, p-value = 0.000005

Table 5. Correlation between weight of the new born and uric acid levels (n= 75).

weight of the new born (kg)	Uric acid levels (mg/dL)	
	≤5.5	>5.5
	%	%
≤2.5	13.2	26.3
>2.5	44.7	15.8
Total	57.9	42.1

p = 0.001, (R² = 0.08)



P24 = proténurie de 24 heures; Y= uric acid levels; R² = 0.13 P-Value = 0.003

Figure 1. Correlation between proteinuria and uric acid levels (n= 75).

tween uricemia and 24-hour proteinuria. Hyperuricemia corresponds to the high level of proteinuria (Figure 1). There is an association between uricemia and creatinin at the significance level (p = 0.01), these variables are linked to an

Table 6. Correlation between creatinemia and uric acid levels (n= 75).

Uric acid levels	Creatinemia		
	≤1.3	>1.3	Total
≤5.5	40	4	44
>5.5	24	8	31
Total	64	12	75

$R^2 = 0.13$; P-Value = 0.001

estimated correlation level of 0.365 ($R^2 = 0.13$) (**Table 6**).

4. Discussion

In the study by Corine M *et al.* [22], it has been demonstrated that hyper uricemia in the context of pre-eclampsia is associated with a high rate of eclampsia. Thagaratinam *et al.* [23] estimated that high serum uric acid levels were associated with an almost double risk of severe complications such as eclampsia with a high caesarean section. Valentin *et al.* [24] describe uricemia as the most discriminating parameter at all stages of the disease from the twentieth week of gestation. The present study showed that hyper uricemia was significantly correlated with the emergence of eclampsia and a high incidence of caesarean section; corroborating the results of Thagaratinam, Valentin, Corine M. Koopmans. The rate of caesarean section associated with hyperuricemia found in our study (33%) is similar to that of Gowri *et al.* [22].

We found in this study, among the 22 pre-eclamptic pregnant women who gave birth to low-birth-weight children, 68% had hyper uricemia. Nida [23] notes in his study that fetal hypotrophy is often associated with hyperuricemia, making this biological parameter a very reliable index of fetal prognosis. During pre-eclampsia, there are pathognomonic renal lesions known as “glomerular endotheliosis”, which are the basis of decreased plasma renal flow and glomerular filtration, proteinuria noted during the disease, Creatinemia and uricemia. Its importance is correlated with the severity of renal involvement. Like RAGHEB [25] and CHAOUI [24], our study found a link between the occurrence of acute renal failure in preeclamptic pregnant women, 24-hour severe proteinuria, elevated serum creatinine, and hyper uricemia.

5. Conclusion

Hyperuricemia in preeclampsia is a risk factor for eclampsia, low birth weight, and is associated with a high rate of caesarean sections. Associated with a massive proteinuria and a high creatinine, hyper uricemia translates the important renal impairment in the evolution of the disease.

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