levels were similar between no ROP and ROP patients. Only low birth weight and low gestational age were significantly associated with any stage and severe ROP.

Conclusions: There was no association between altered plasmatic levels of cytokines with any stage of ROP or with ROP stages 3 or more in very low birth weight infants with early-onset sepsis. Low birth weight and gestational age were important factors for ROP occurrence.

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EVALUATION OF ANTIPHOSPHOLIPID ANTIBODIES AND ACTIVATED PARTIAL THROMBOPLASTIN TIME IN WOMEN WITH ADVERSE OUTCOME OF PREGNANCY

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Background: Adverse outcome of pregnancy is potentially dangerous complication of conception that affects 15-20% of pregnancies. The aim of the present study was to compare the maternal serum levels of anticardiolipin, antiphosphatidyl serine, and partial thromboplastin time between patients with adverse outcome of pregnancy and matched control subjects.

Methods: Serum anticardiolipin, antiphosphatidyl serine and activated partial thromboplastin time levels were measured in 150 women with adverse pregnancy outcome after ten weeks gestational age, and in 150 matched healthy pregnant women as control group. Data on maternal age, age of pregnancy, serum levels of anticardiolipin, antiphosphatidyl serine and activated partial thromboplastin time were collected and compared by Student's t test and χ^2 between the two groups.

Results: The total number of the study population was 300, that is, 150 cases in each group. The age of mothers were 25.86 ± 5.90 and 27.09 ± 5.63 years ($p=0.67$), and the age of pregnancies were 29.34 ± 5.12 and 28.17 ± 7.03 ($p=0.1$) weeks in the control and the patient group respectively. Serum positive levels of anticardiolipin, antiphosphatidyl serine and activated partial thromboplastin time antibodies were 14.3% versus 85.7% ($P=0.002$), 15.2% versus 84.8% ($P=0.003$), and 23.1% versus 76.9% ($P=0.001$) for the control and the patient group respectively.

Conclusion: The mean serum levels of anticardiolipin, antiphosphatidyl serine and activated partial thromboplastin time between the two groups were significantly different. According to the findings of our study, it seems that antiphospholipids are associated with adverse outcome of pregnancy in the study population.

Keywords: Antiphospholipids, , Pregnancy,

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EXPOSURE TO PESTICIDES AND NEUROBEHAVIORAL DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN- REVIEW OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES

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Background: Conventional pesticides comprise a diverse group of substances intended to destroy, repel or control organisms identified as pests. Compared to studies of lead, mercury and PCBs few epidemiological studies have assessed the developmental neurotoxicity of pesticides.

Methods: Epidemiological studies focused on the neurobehavioural development of children exposed to pesticides were identified by a search of the PUBMED, MEDLINE, EBSCO, AGRICOLA and TOXNET literature bases.

Results: The results from the presented studies suggest that children exposure to pesticides may impaired development. Exposure to organophosphorus pesticides (OP) in children can caused difficulties with tasks involving short-term memory, increased reaction time, mental development and pervasive development problems. In neonates increased number of abnormal reflexes and mental and emotional symptoms in adolescents. The results of the studies investigated the association between exposure to organochlorine pesticides and neurodevelopmental problems display inconsistent results. Whereas some studies found reduction in mental and psychomotor function the other studies did not confirmed that.

Conclusions: Information derived from epidemiological studies so far indicate the need to increase awareness among people and children exposed to pesticides about the association between use of pesticides and neurodevelopmental impairment. We should simply apply the principle of prudence, just in case.