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Anti-oxidant intake in antenatal cases high-risk for pregnancy induced hypertension and intrauterine growth restriction

Rajiv Mahendru

B.P.S. Government Medical College for Women, India

Objective: For assessment of effects of supplementation of antioxidant lycopene in antenatal cases considered high risk candidates for pregnancy induced hypertension (P.I.H) and/or fetal growth restriction.

Materials & Methods: A pilot study comprising 107 pregnant women between 13 and 28 gestational weeks with factors considered high risk for developing pre-eclampsia were considered and randomly allocated into two groups: I (n=55) and II (n=52), with or without lycopene supplementation, respectively. Lycopene in a dose of 4 mg once daily starting from the date of entry was given to the antenatal subjects of the study group (Group-I) and were instructed to continue the drug regularly until delivery. Women of the other group (Group-II) were not provided with lycopene supplementation. Main observation measures considered were whether there was development of preeclampsia and its severity, period of gestation at delivery, mode of delivery, fetal weight and perinatal outcome as regards to admission to neonatal intensive care unit and neonatal death.

Observations: There were no significant differences in development of preeclampsia in both the groups but severity was more in the group-II where patients did not receive lycopene. Significant adverse finding noticed, having no mention in the literature earlier, was: one case of eclampsia. Women in the lycopene supplementation group had not only significantly lesser incidence of growth restricted babies but also significantly healthier babies and had a significantly better perinatal outcome compared to women in non-supplemented group.

Conclusion: Supplementation of lycopene although does not decrease the incidence of preeclampsia in high risk women but may help in reducing its severity and there is reduced incidence of intrauterine growth restriction with better prenatal outcome.

Biography

Rajiv Mahendru completed Post-Graduate Degree in Obstetrics and Gynaecology from Himachal Pradesh University at the age of 29 years and became one of the youngest Professors. Presently, he is the Head of the Department in the only second women medical college of India. He has 41 publications in reputed journals and is the recipient of a prestigious award for excellence in medical field. He is appointed as the Chief-Editor of the special issue of an international journal of repute and has numerous presentations to his credit at international arena as an invited guest speaker. He is the member of editorial board of international journals, academic board of many universities, member of recruitment for medical teachers, and assessor for establishing Medical colleges. He has chaired numerous sessions in the national and international conferences.

dr.mahendru@gmail.com

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