

of tissues stained with hematoxylin-eosin stains^[8-10].

However, this requires a biopsy has to be taken from specific organs. Fortunately, the eye is the mirror of the body. That is why we have adopted the principle of examining the pregnant women's eyes for the sake of early detection of lipoprotein deposition in the form of hard exudate, before the signs and symptoms of preeclampsia have yet developed. That is the pivotal idea that we have adopted in committing this paper. To assess whether lipoprotein deposition in the eye of pregnant women can be useful as a screening test for the development of pregnancy induced hypertension.

Preeclampsia and the eye

Actually, most of the studies that have been found in the literature, which describe the retinal changes with preeclampsia have been conducted among women with already established disease. Few if any have been found which describe the early changes in the retina of pregnant women shortly before the onset of preeclampsia. The most prominent findings in the eyes of preeclamptic women include retinal detachment, thrombosis of retinal vessels and retinal hemorrhage^[11-14]. In this study, we have tried to detect the deposition of fibrin in the eyes of pregnant women within the first two weeks of the third trimester before the women become preeclamptic, through simple ophthalmoscopy. In addition, to give more accurate assessment about the presence of fibrin deposition in the eye, further confirmation was done by a colleague ophthalmologist. As will be detailed further detailed in the section of methods and patients. Lipoprotein deposition in the retina was described as a lesion indistinguishable from typical hard exudate.

Patients and Methods

1. Population and patients' collection

The study was conducted in Baghdad City at two major maternity

hospitals, al-Elwyia maternity hospital and AL-Habibya maternity hospital. All the patients enrolled in this study were taken from the antenatal clinics from the above-mentioned hospitals. It has included a wide spectrum from Baghdad's inhabitants with different social status and educational degrees.

All the women who have been enrolled in this study have accepted to participate through their verbal consent and supplied with pre-printed data collection sheet to record exactly the events in the third trimester and the outcome of their pregnancy. All the women who have been enrolled in this study were primigravida to make their statistical analysis more conclusive. The study lasted about three years from June 2001 up to March 2004.

2. Follow up protocol

Starting as early as booking all the women were assessed initially by taking full history and meticulous physical examination especially for the blood pressure and uterine size. In addition, all the women were further assessed by the routine antenatal investigation, which include hemoglobin level, random blood sugar, general urine examination, blood urea, serum creatinine, serum uric acid, ABO- Rh blood group, VDRL, as well as Coomb's test for Rh -ve women.

In addition routine ultrasound scan was taken at 16 weeks of gestation. Those women who have been found hypertensive, proteinuric, multiple gestation and low-lying placenta were excluded from the study. The remaining women were followed in the routine way throughout the second trimester up to 28 weeks of gestation. Should as woman remain normotensive she is scheduled for simple outpatient ophthalmoscopic examination to assess the presence of hard exudate in the retina.

In addition, a colleague Ophthalmologist at AL-Jarah private hospital was sent those with positive hard exudate in their retina for further examination and confirmation. Fibrin deposition was described as a grayish