percentage of positively stained villi was calculated for each case by taking the mean of the percentages of the positively stained villi in the 10 fields as advised by Hennessy (Personal communication, 2004). The scorer was blinded to the clinical diagnosis of the tissues at the time of assessment, and tissues were independently assessed by two observers.

Negative controls were obtained by omitting the monoclonal antibody and using phosphate buffer saline to verify the signal specificity. Positive control signal was obtained using normal healthy ovarian tissue.

Statistics: ANOVA test was used to determine the difference in the expression of estrogen receptor among the three groups. Values of $p<0.05$ were considered as statistically significant.

Results

Table (1) shows the percentages of the expression of estrogen receptors in terms of mean ± SE, minimum and maximum values of the three groups, and it is obvious that the expression was higher in the recurrent loss group (mean=71.2 ± 2.3) than that of group B and C. (Table 2) shows the differences in the expression of estrogen receptor among the three groups and within the groups using ANOVA analysis. Estrogen receptors expression was heterogeneous dark-brown nuclear staining involving the trophoblasts, both cyto- and synsytiotrophoblasts in the three groups of women but it was more significant and obvious in the recurrent loss group (Figure 1).

Table 1: The expression of estrogen receptor among the studied groups

Estrogen Receptor	n	Mean ± S.E.$^{\Psi}$	Min. Value	Max. Value
Group A	24	71.2 ± 2.3	50	90
Group B	10	52.2 ± 3.2	35	70
Group C	6	43.7 ± 4.2	30	60

Total mean = 62.3 ± 2.4 %

$^{\Psi}$ Standard error

Table 2: The significance of differences in the expression of estrogen receptor in between the groups

Estrogen Receptor	*P* Value
Among the groups	0.001
Between group A and B	0.001
Between group A and C	0.001
Between group B and C	0.134