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SERUM CYSTATIN – C AS A POTENTIAL PREDICTOR OF RENAL DAMAGE IN PRE-ECLAMPSIA

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Objectives: *Pre-eclampsia is a pregnancy-related disorder characterized by hypertension, proteinuria, and edema. Serum cystatin C is a novel marker for the early detection of renal damage in pre-eclampsia. Therefore, the study aimed to determine the average value of renal function indexes and some factors related to serum cystatin C levels in pre-eclamptic pregnant women.*

Methods: *A case-control study investigated two pregnant women groups: 50 healthy pregnant women (group A) and 50 pregnant women with pre-eclampsia (group B) at Can Tho Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital, Vietnam, from July 2021 to July 2022. We collected blood samples and urine samples to analyze the serum cystatin C concentration and the indices of renal function.*

Results: *The average maternal age of healthy pregnant women and pre-eclampsia group was respectively 31.3 ± 6.4 and 33.5 ± 6.4 years old ($p > 0.05$), and the gestational age of the healthy group and pre-eclampsia group was 37.0 and 37.1 weeks ($p > 0.05$). Indices of kidney function in 2 groups of healthy pregnant women and pre-eclampsia pregnant women were, respectively: serum creatinine (Scr) 50.7 ± 8.9 and $54.5 \pm 11.4 \mu\text{mol/L}$ ($p > 0.05$), serum cystatin C (ScysC) 0.9 ± 0.21 and $1.4 \pm 0.18 \text{mg/L}$ ($p < 0.01$), 24-hour proteinuria 221.3 ± 35.3 and 799.5 (306-3720) $\text{mg}/24$ hours ($p < 0.01$), urine creatinine 1253.6 ± 424.9 and $1390.8 \pm 480.7 \text{mg}/24$ hours ($p > 0.05$), 24-hour creatinine clearance 153 ± 48 and $162.5 \pm 62 \text{mL}/\text{min}$ ($p > 0.05$). The correlation between Scr, ScysC, and 24-hour creatinine clearance in group A was $r_1 = -0.52$ ($p < 0.001$), $r_2 = 0.06$ ($p = 0.695$); in group B, was $r_3 = -0.45$ ($p = 0.001$), $r_4 = 0.26$ ($p = 0.064$). The correlation between Scr, ScysC, and 24h proteinuria in group A was $r_5 = 0.05$ ($p = 0.851$), $r_6 = 0.26$ ($p = 0.064$); in group B, was $r_7 = 0.24$ ($p = 0.094$), $r_8 = 0.36$ ($p = 0.01$), respectively.*

Conclusions: *Serum cystatin C seems to be not as accurate as serum creatinine in evaluating the glomerular filtration rate in pregnant women; however, this is a promising biomarker for the early detection of renal injury in preeclampsia.*