

## **Transthyretin is a new biomarker candidate for preeclampsia.**

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### **Abstract**

Preeclampsia, also known simply as PE, is a pregnancy disorder that has the potential to be life-threatening. Nevertheless, there is not yet a dependable laboratory test for the early detection and follow-up of PE that has been developed. The goal of this research was to identify a protein known as transthyretin (TTR) that has a distinct level of expression in patients with severe PE and to investigate TTR's viability as a possible biomarker for this illness. TTR levels were assessed using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent test across various stages during full-term pregnancy (20 weeks, n=41; >20 weeks, n=39) (ELISA). We investigated the TTR concentration in pregnant women suffering severe PE (n = 43) and healthy control participants (n = 37) utilizing western blotting and ELISA. The mean TTR level in the blood of mothers with severe PE was considerably lower than normal pregnancy amounts during each trimester. For females with severe PE, TTR levels were considerably lower than for the control group (P0.001; area under the curve, 0.834-0.934). As a result, TTR is a candidate for use as a biomarker for PE.

**Keywords:** Transthyretin, Preeclampsia

### **Introduction**

Preeclampsia, often known as PE, is a syndrome that affects pregnant women and involves multiple body systems. Approximately 4 to 10 percentage most pregnant women develop PE, with symptoms often appearing after 20 weeks. PE can be identified by a wide range of signs and symptoms, the most notable of which are hypertension and proteinuria, as well as consequences including failure of the liver and kidneys and distress in the fetus. There is an association between PE in the mother and a smaller-than-average size for the gestational age of the baby in approximately twenty-five percent of new-borns. Worldwide, PE is the leading cause of maternal mortality and morbidity (1,2). It is considered that placental ischemia is essential to the development of the fetus, despite the fact that the precise drivers of PE continue to be unknown. A mismatch in the production of circulatory components may result from hypoxia in the placenta, which can lead to significant damage to the vascular endothelial cells.

Problems with coagulation, systemic hypertension, and vascular damage may be caused by antiangiogenic factors and other proteomic variables (3-5). It has been demonstrated that there is a correlation between shifts in these circulating proteome variables and pathophysiological modifications in the disease. It is essential to receive routine prenatal care up until the time of delivery in order to detect PE at an early stage. At this time, there is no laboratory test that is based on biomarkers that can diagnose PE.

Non-invasive biomarkers that can be found in a mother's blood or urine really can anticipate the formation of pulmonary embolism that aid in the surveillance of this dangerous event during

pregnancy have been sought. pulmonary embolism is a complication that can occur during pregnancy (6). It has been discovered that biochemical indications, although biochemical indications including such accessible sflt-1 as a placental growth factor (fms-like tyr kinase 1) (PLGF) are available, they are not regarded to be accurate in the diagnosis of PE (7). As a result, it is essential to locate relevant markers that may be utilized for PE prediction.

Serum proteome analysis with PE in a prior study showed reduced levels on transthyretin (TTR) among women who have PE (8). Tetrameric TTR is indeed a serum protein that is made up of four 55 kDa divisions that are the same as each other. The liver, the eye, as well as the choroid plexus make up most of the body's supply. Albumin, thyrotropin-releasing hormone, and thyroxin-binding globulin all bind to thyroxin as well as convey thyroid hormones in the blood, although TTR's primary action is transporting thyroxin (T4) (9). For healthy fetal growth, the placenta must produce trophoblasts are the cells that are responsible for producing TTR. Therefore, disorders that produce TTR may result in fetal pain (10). Additionally, more than one hundred different Amyloid disorders, in which tissue-specific amyloid is deposited in several organs, have been linked to TTR mutations (11). In a recent study, it was discovered that the TTR level is raised by a factor of two in pancreatic cancer; as a result, TTR levels were found to be potentially useful as a new tumor marker (12). It is not clear, though, if TTR can be used to diagnose PE. In this study, it was found that TTR transcript levels change a lot during severe PE (13). Different levels of TTR were believed to be related to the cause of severe PE, which suggests that TTR could be a potential marker of PE (14).

Grouping for the materials and procedures. In order to evaluate how TTR levels change throughout severe PE, three different tests were carried out. During a normal pregnancy, the following changes in TTR levels were observed at various times: A Before 20 weeks, n=41 normal pregnant ladies were sampled; after 20 weeks, n=39. In order to determine the TTR concentrations that are present throughout a normal pregnancy, this was carried out (15). The levels of TTR in a group of healthy female controls were compared to those found in a group of females who had severe PE. After 20 weeks of pregnancy, 43 pregnant women were chosen to take part in the severe PE group. None of these ladies experienced any other complications during their pregnancies. There was no history of renal disease or hypertension among the patients who were studied. In the control group, we enrolled 37 healthy girls and compared their gestational ages to those of the severe PE group (16). In our comparison, we discovered no discernible distinction between the two categories. Both patients who had severe PE and the control group had their TTR levels measured simultaneously. In this study, the TTR levels of people who got PE early (n=21) and late (n=22) were compared (all of these patients were considered to have severe PE). Every single sample of serum came from a woman (17). Serious PE is defined as just a rise in blood pressure (160 mmHg systolic or 110 mmHg diastolic bp on some more and over two separate occasions separated from at least 6 h), proteinuria, and coagulopathy illnesses after 20 weeks pregnant in women to regular blood pressure (platelets  $100 \times 10^9$ )

#### **Acquiring Samples**

Peripheral blood samples were collected then centrifugation at  $2,415 \times g$  for 10 minutes at 4 degrees Celsius. The samples were thereafter frozen and stored at 80 degrees Centigrade until use. These samples were obtained from an OB/GYN facility. Each participant supplied written consent once the university's ethics board authorized the study.

#### **Western Blotting Method**

Through western blotting, we compared TTR expression levels between patients with severe PE (n=43) and healthy controls (n=37). The bicinchoninic acid assay was utilized to ascertain total serum protein concentrations. To compare the two groups, electrophoresis employing 15% sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel was performed on 60 g of serum protein samples. After being transported to nitrocellulose membrane, the peptides then were subjected for 25 minutes to 300 mV. The membranes were treated with primary antibodies towards TTR for 120 minutes at room temperature after first being blocked overnight in blocking buffer at 4 C. The membranes spent 50 minutes in a goat generally pro IgG secondary antibody bath. The relative signal intensities of such western blot bands were evaluated to determine the protein concentrations.

ELISA for the determination of TTR concentrations. ELISA was used to measure TTR in the serum. For detection, samples were diluted to 1:40,000, and CurveExpert 1.3 was used to display the results. **Quantitative research.** SPSS 17.0 was utilized for data analysis, as well as the independent sample t-test was employed to assess whether or not there were any significant distinctions between the groups. A significant statistical difference was defined as having a probability of less than 0.05. Analyses of receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves conducted in MedCalc 9.6.2.0 established the utility the diagnostic value of TTR for severe PE (19).

### Results

TTR levels can be measured during a normal pregnancy. ELISA kits were used to measure TTR concentrations during a normal pregnancy's three trimesters. TTR levels peaked around the third pregnancy month and dropped precipitously after 20 weeks. Levels of TTR were statistically significantly greater in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy compared to later in pregnancy (P0.001). After that point, we didn't find any more fluctuations in TTR levels.

Evaluation of TTR alterations in severe PE using Western blotting.

For real-time tracking of TTR modifications during life-threatening PE, we used western blotting to measure expression levels. The current study included 43 women having acute PE and 37 healthy controls. Differential TTR expression between the two sample sets of sera. In this case, the dissociating TTR monomer was represented by a single band at around 16 kDa. Serum Significantly reduced Those with severe PE had higher TTR levels than those who were healthy.

The ELISA method was used to determine TTR levels in patients with severe PE. A total of 43 patients with severe PE and 37 healthy controls had their TTR levels measured using ELISA. TTR levels were 2.4-fold lower in the serious PE group compared to the control group, a statistically significant difference (P0.001). This finding agrees with those from western blotting. When compared to the control group, the severe PE group had a considerably reduced median TTR concentration.

Median TTR levels were compared between women with severe PE and women who were otherwise healthy throughout the same time in their pregnancies. The severe PE group's curve was markedly lower than the normal pregnant groups.

TTR concentrations with the beginning of early and late PE. Out of the total of 43 people with severe PE, 21 were placed in the onset group whereas 22 were placed in the adult-onset group. When comparing early and late onset individuals, those with the former had significantly lower TTR levels (P 0.001).

TTR has great diagnostic potential for severe PE. ROC curve analysis was used to look at TTR's diagnostic utility in extremely high-risk pregnancies for PE. With a sensitivity and specificity of 88.4% and 86.5%, including both (area under the curve = 0.917; range = 0.834–0.967), and a clinical relevance of 128.81 mg/l, this same results showed that TTR could be a good marker again for diagnosing severe PE.

### Discussion

Early diagnosis, monitoring, prognosis, and therapy responses all rely on the discovery of novel yet efficient diagnostics of PE. Science and scientific of PE have been angiogenic factors as sflt-1 and PLGF.

However, there has been a lack of congruence between research when it comes to the selection of several possible indicators for diagnosing PE. As a result, further research is needed to pinpoint and perfect indicators for PE (20). The third month of pregnancy was found to be a time of rapid increase in TTR concentrations, as determined by ELISA analysis of especially pregnant subjects (9-12 weeks). Earlier in pregnancy, before 20 weeks, TTR levels were greater. Prenatal TTR levels rise sharply because mothers receive thyroid hormone to help their babies grow. According to previous research, fetal TTR synthesis begins at 16 weeks during pregnancy. In addition, the third month saw the greatest TTR levels (9-12 weeks). During the fifth month of pregnancy (about 17–20 weeks), TTR levels began to drop. This finding is in agreement with a prior study's findings suggesting maternal TTR protein may be necessary for fetal development and play a vital role in delivering thyroid hormone towards the fetus. Preterm infants have lower T4 levels in their cord serum, and

this decrease is correlated with their gestational week and birth weight. Serum T4 levels are typically lower in preterm newborns compared to term infants; this difference may help explain why preterm infants have a higher risk of mortality and morbidity. These findings suggest that the fetal thyroid gland fails to produce enough T4 before birth at full term, and that the mother's thyroid hormone serves to offset this shortfall. Fetal thyroid hormone (T4) is delivered to the mother via the thyroid hormone transporter (TTR) in the mother (21).

TTR proteins may be produced by fetuses, although it is possible that maternal TTR protein is necessary for fetal development. In this study, researchers found that TTR concentrations were considerably lowered in the sera of women with severe PE. Similar findings from a prior proteomic investigation, in which TTR levels were found to be low in patients with severe PE at a young age, were confirmed by the present study. TTR levels in mothers were considerably lower inside the moderate PE group compared to the control group. Variations in TTR levels following moderate PE may be linked to illness progression, as the curve for this group was much flatter than the control group's in the same gestational month. TTR's accuracy as a screening tool for moderate PE was assessed using ROC curves. TTR levels were able to identify among severe PE with healthy females at a level of 128.81 mg/l or more (22).

### Conclusion

The third month of pregnancy was found to be a time of rapid increase in TTR concentrations, as determined by ELISA analysis. This is in agreement with previous research suggesting maternal TTR protein may be necessary for fetal development and play a vital role in delivering thyroid hormone towards the fetus. Preterm infants have lower T4 levels in their cord serum, and this decrease is correlated with their gestational week and birth weight. Serum T4 levels are typically lower in preterm newborns than term infants, suggesting that the fetal thyroid gland fails to produce enough T4 before full term birth. TTR proteins may be produced by fetuses, but this study found that TTR concentrations were considerably lowered in the blood of women who have very bad PE. In the blood serum of women with acute PE. ROC curves were employed to figure out how well TTR works as a screening tool for mild PE, and a cutoff position of 128.81 mg/l was chosen able to distinguish among moderate PE versus healthy females.

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