

The relationship between Anti-Mullerian Hormone (AMH) levels and pregnancy outcomes in patients undergoing assisted reproductive techniques (ART)

Shalini Umarsingh^{Equal first author, 1}, Jamila Khatoon Adam¹, Suresh Babu Naidu Krishna^{Corresp. Equal first author, 1}

¹ Biomedical and Clinical Technology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Durban University of Technology, Durban, South Africa

Corresponding Author: Suresh Babu Naidu Krishna
Email address: Sureshk@dut.ac.za

A variety of predictors are available for ovarian stimulation cycles in assisted reproductive technology (ART) forecasting ovarian response and reproductive outcome in women including biomarkers such as anti-Mullerian hormone (AMH). The aim of our present study was to compare the relationship between AMH levels and pregnancy outcomes in patients undergoing intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI). Overall, fifty patients (n=50), aged 20-45 years were recruited for the present prospective study. Three AMH levels were presented with high often poly cystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) amongst 52.4% patients, 40.5% in normal and 7.1% in low to normal, correspondingly. There was statistically significant relationship between AMH and day of embryo transfer ($p < 0.05$). The Pearson analysis between AMH, age, E2 and FSH displayed no statistically significant relationship between E2 and AMH ($p < 0.05$) and negative correlation between FSH and age ($p > 0.05$). The area under the receiver operating characteristic curve for E₂ was 0.725 and for AMH levels as predictors of CPR was 0.497 indicating E₂ as better predictor than AMH. The number of oocytes, mature oocytes and fertilized oocytes all presented a weak positive relationship to AMH. Our results confirm the clinical significance of AMH to accurately predict ovarian reserve as a marker and its limitations to use as predictor for a positive pregnancy outcome. Additional prospective studies should be conducted to validate the predictive capability of AMH levels for the outcome of clinical pregnancy.

Title

The Relationship Between Anti-Mullerian Hormone (AMH) Levels and Pregnancy Outcomes in Patients Undergoing Assisted Reproductive Techniques (ART)

Shalini Umar Singh ^{Equal first author}, Jamila Khatoon Adam, Suresh Babu Naidu Krishna ^{Corresp. Equal first author*}

Authors Affiliations

1. Shalini Umarsingh, Department of Biomedical & Clinical Technology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Durban University of Technology, Durban-4000, South Africa
Email: shalini.umarsingh@gmail.com;
2. Prof Jamila Khatoon Adam, Department of Biomedical & Clinical Technology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Durban University of Technology, Durban-4000, South Africa Email: adamjk@dut.ac.za
3. Dr Suresh Babu Naidu Krishna, Department of Biomedical & Clinical Technology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Durban University of Technology, Durban-4000, South Africa Email: sureshk@dut.ac.za

***Corresponding author**

Word Count: 5001

Abstract

A variety of predictors are available for ovarian stimulation cycles in assisted reproductive technology (ART) forecasting ovarian response and reproductive outcome in women including biomarkers such as anti-Mullerian hormone (AMH). The aim of our present study was to compare the relationship between AMH levels and pregnancy outcomes in patients undergoing intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI). Overall, fifty patients (n=50), aged 20-45 years were recruited for the present prospective study. Three AMH levels were presented with high often poly cystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) amongst 52.4% patients, 40.5% in normal and 7.1% in low to normal, correspondingly. There was statistically significant relationship between AMH and day of embryo transfer ($p < 0.05$). The Pearson analysis between AMH, age, E2 and FSH displayed no statistically significant relationship between E2 and AMH ($p < 0.05$) and negative correlation between FSH and age ($p > 0.05$). The area under the receiver operating characteristic curve for E₂ was 0.725 and for AMH levels as predictors of CPR was 0.497 indicating E₂ as better predictor than AMH. The number of oocytes, mature oocytes and fertilized oocytes all presented a weak positive relationship to AMH. Our results confirm the clinical significance of AMH to accurately predict ovarian reserve as a marker and its limitations to use as predictor for a positive pregnancy outcome. Additional prospective studies should be conducted to validate the predictive capability of AMH levels for the outcome of clinical pregnancy.

Keywords: Anti-Mullerian hormone, Fertilization *in vitro*, Pregnancy, Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, Oocytes, Clinical pregnancy rate

53

54

55 **Introduction**

56 Couples in modern societies postpone childbearing amidst busy schedules and career positionings;
57 trying to conceive at a more advanced age contributing to a rise in the occurrence of infertility
58 (Caroppo et al., 2006). Most women are unaware that fertility starts to decline after the early
59 thirties in some individuals. With increasing female age, fecundity in natural and stimulated
60 ovarian cycles declines, as observed in population-based studies (Grynnerup et al., 2012) as well
61 as in IVF studies (Scheffer et al., 2018). For this reason, there is a growing number of women of
62 advanced age seeking treatment for infertility (Oskayli et al., 2019).

63 The hormonal control of ovarian function is influenced by administering exogenous follicle
64 stimulating hormone (FSH) (Richards, 2018). Prediction of ovarian responses prior to stimulation
65 is not only useful for patient counselling, but also important in tailoring the optimal dosage of
66 gonadotrophin for individual patients. The recruitment and development of multiple follicles in
67 response to gonadotrophin stimulation are essential for the successful treatment of infertility by
68 assisted reproductive techniques (ART) (Dewailly et al. 2014; Yang, Wu, and Zhang 2020).
69 Besides, poor ovarian response has been suggested to be associated with high cycle cancellation
70 rates (Saldeen, Källen, and Sundström 2007). Chang et al (1998) found that patients with antral
71 follicle number ≤ 3 had a significantly higher rate of cycle cancellation and higher human
72 menopausal gonadotropin (HMG) dosage as compared with those patients with antral follicle
73 number 4-10 or ≥ 10 . Nevertheless, the AFC is presently believed to be the finest specific predictor
74 of ovarian response to stimulation in ART, and it can be used in clinical practice for pretreatment
75 counselling targets.

76 In assisted reproduction, serum levels for several hormones are used to assess the ovarian reserve
77 and to monitor the development of the follicles that have been stimulated by gonadotrophins(Alson
78 et al., 2018). Traditional techniques used to predict ovarian stimulation have incorporated serum
79 levels of hormones such as FSH, LH and estrogen (E_2) along with ultrasonographic guides such
80 as ovarian volume and number of early antral follicles as a reliable predictor of the outcome of in
81 vitro fertilization (IVF) (Kunt et al., 2011). Over the last years, Anti-Mullerian hormone (AMH)

has been projected as a novel marker for predicting ovarian response to gonadotrophin stimulation (Alson et al., 2018, Zargar et al., 2018). AMH is a dimeric glycoprotein strongly produced by the granulosa cells of the pre-antral (primary and secondary) and small antral follicles (AF's) in the ovary and shown to be age dependent (Sahmay et al., 2014). Measurement of anti-Müllerian hormone in serum is much more precise measure of the ovarian reserve than the other hormones that have previously been available to us (Anderson et al., 2012).

The aim of this prospective study was to investigate the relationship between Anti-Müllerian hormone levels and pregnancy outcomes in patients undergoing *in-vitro* fertilization or intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI).

Materials and Methods

Patients: Fifty women (n=50), aged 20-45 years were recruited from Centre of Assisted Reproduction and Endocrinology (C.A.R.E) Clinic in Westville, Durban, South Africa who were undergoing IVF treatment. This study was approved by Ethical Committee of the Durban University of Technology (Project reference 128/16) and Research Committee, C.A.R.E. Clinic, Durban, South Africa. After approving the study by the research ethics committees, written informed consents were obtained from all the patients.

GnRH antagonist Protocol: A gonadotrophin-releasing hormone (GnRH) antagonist protocol with recombinant FSH (GONAL-f, Merck Serono, Darmstadt, Germany) was used as downregulatory (Park et al., 2015). The second approach was followed by administering 0.25 mg/day Cetrotide (Merck Serono). When at least 3 or more follicles reach a diameter equal or above 17 – 18 mm, the endometrial thickness reached at least 7 mm by ultrasound and E2 levels were about 1500-1800 pmol/L then Human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) was administered. All patients received 5000 – 10 000 IU hCG (Ovitrelle®, Merck Serono). Oocyte retrieval was performed 36 hours after the administration of the hCG. Conventional IVF or ICSI was performed according to previously described protocols.

Sample collection: Blood samples were collected every 3-4 days on commencement of the treatment. The blood samples were centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 10 minutes using a Biofuge centrifuge (Biofuge Primo – Heraeus) to obtain the blood serum. AMH and FSH levels were

recorded, upon the first visit. Estrogen(E₂) and LH levels were monitored throughout the program until a peak E₂ and LH level were reached.

Hormone Assays: Gen II ELISA (Beckman Coulter Inc., USA, catalog number A79765/A79766, unmodified version). (Beckman Coulter, USA) kit was used to estimate hormone levels (FSH-Cat. No. 33520 Access hFSH reagent, 100 determinations, 2 x 50 tests); E₂ (Cat. No. B84493 Access Sensitive Estradiol Reagent, 100 determinations) and AMH (Cat. No. B13127 Access AMH Reagent, 100 determinations, 2 x 50 tests) from the blood serum according to manufacturer's instructions. Insemination and intra cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), oocyte retrieval, culture, fertilization, embryo culture, and transfer were carried out as previously described by Gardener et al. (Gardner et al., 2001).

Inclusion Criteria: The population of the study included female patients ranging between the ages of 20–45

Exclusion Criteria: Patients undergoing cancer therapy and patients on immune suppressant drugs were excluded from study.

Statistical analysis: The data were analysed using IBM SPSS software (Chicago, IL, USA). Pearson's correlation was used to determine the direction, strength, and significance of the correlation between X and Y variables between the different semen parameters. A parametric multiple linear regression analysis was used to evaluate the relationship between AMH and other available endocrine markers. ROC curves were used to assess predictive value for E₂ and AMH and evaluating cut off values to optimise sensitivity and specificity. A *p* value of < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Institutional Review Board approval: This study was approved by Ethical Committee of the Durban University of Technology (Project reference 128/16) and Research Committee, C.A.R.E. Clinic, Durban, South Africa and was performed in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975 (as revised in 1983).

Results

The prospective study included fifty patients who met the inclusion criteria. From the initial sample size of fifty, forty-two presented with data that could be analysed whilst 8 patients had oocytes

that were abnormal and did not result in transfer. The data from these 8 patients were not included in the study due to poor embryo development (Table 1).

Table 1. AMH distribution in blood samples

Amongst the 42 patients analysed, 4.76% were between 20-24 years, 9.52% were between 25-29 years, 40.47% were between 30-34 years, 35.7% were between 35-39 years and 9.52% were between 40-44 years, respectively. As demonstrated by this study the clinical pregnancy rate for patients 20 - 24 years was 100%, 25 -29 years was 50%, 30 – 34 years was 17.6%, 35 – 39 years was 26.6% and 40 - 44 years was 25% (Fig. 1).

Table 2 shows number of oocytes retrieved, number of oocytes matured, and number of oocytes fertilized into respective categories. Not all eggs obtained were at the metaphase 2 stages and had to be matured in the incubator overnight and injected the following day. The results shown were to some extent anticipated as AMH has been used as an indicator of oocyte reserve in previous studies (Yarde et al., 2013, Yao et al., 2015) whereas the resulting fertilized or transferred embryo's may be due to a chance process based on many various factors such as quality of oocyte and sperm.

The Chi-square test for Independence was performed to check whether there was an association between the number of oocytes fertilized and the AMH category (Table 2). A Chi-squared value of 18.5, degrees of freedom = 12, with a $p = 0.10$ was found. There was no statistically significant relationship between numbers of oocytes fertilized versus AMH category ($p > 0.05$).

Out of 22 patients, 43 embryos were transferred. Embryos were transferred depending on embryo development and the number of embryos obtained. Most patients in the high and normal categories resulted in a day 5 transfer, the Chi-squared test for independence of AMH and number of embryos transferred gave a Chi-squared value of 6.384 with $df = 4$ and p -value = 0.172 (Table 3), thus statistically no significant association between AMH and number of embryos transferred was observed. Whilst, Chi-square test for independence between the variables AMH and day of embryo transfer (Table 4) gave a Chi-square value of 14.117, 6 degrees of freedom and $p = 0.028$ indicating statistically significant relationship between AMH and day of embryo transfer ($p < 0.05$).

Pregnancy outcome and AMH category are as shown in Table 5. Out of twenty two cases in high category, 6 resulted in a positive pregnancy; 6 resulted in a positive outcome ($6/12 = 50.0\%$)

(Normal); while out of the 3 cases where the AMH was “Low to Normal”, there were no pregnancies reported. The Chi-squared test for independence of AMH category and pregnancy outcome gave a Chi-Squared value of 0.502, 2 degrees of freedom and $p = 0.778$. There was no statistically significant relationship between the pregnancy outcome and the AMH category ($p > 0.05$).

Pearson correlation

Pearson correlation coefficients were calculated to determine if any statistical significance exists between AMH on a quantitative scale and age, E_2 and FSH (Table 6). The Pearson Correlation coefficient of 0.151 indicates that a very weak positive relationship existence between E_2 and AMH, which is not statistically significant ($p = 0.341$). Furthermore, Pearson correlation coefficient between the AMH and age had a coefficient of -0.028 thus showing no statistical significance $p = 0.859$ ($p > 0.05$). The Pearson Correlation between AMH and FSH produced a coefficient of -0.185 thus indicating no statistical significance $p = 0.240$ ($p > 0.05$). Pearson correlation coefficient showed no significant association between AMH and number of oocytes ($p = 0.191$), number of mature oocytes ($p = 0.300$) and number of oocytes fertilized ($p = 0.146$). The number of oocytes, mature oocytes and oocytes fertilized all presented a no statistically significant correlation with AMH (0.206, 0.164, and 0.228, respectively).

Logistic regression analysis

A logistic regression model was used to determine the possible predictor variables for the pregnancy outcome. The model was fitted to the data with the result of the pregnancy namely, “Positive” or “Negative” as the binary dependent variable and age, E_2 LH, Basal FSH, Basal AMH and number of oocytes fertilized as independent variables (Table 7). As shown in Table 7, LH has $p = 0.042$ ($p < 0.05$) and E_2 has $p = 0.065$, which is statistically not significant at a 5% level. The SPSS output for the model is given in Table 1(Supplementary data S1) signifying that overall, 73.8 % of the cases were correctly classified, while $5/12 = 0.417$ or 41.7 % of the positives were correctly classified, and 86.7% of the negative cases were correctly classified.

Area under the curve

The ROC curves of the serum AMH concentrations and E_2 for the prediction of the clinical pregnancy are depicted in Fig. 2. The areas under the curves (AUC) for E_2 were 0.725 and for

AMH (AUC = 0.497). E_2 is therefore a better single predictor of pregnancy outcome when compared to AMH. It has been shown that E_2 can better predict the number of oocytes obtained.

Discussion

In the current study, we investigated the relationship between AMH levels and pregnancy outcomes in patients undergoing intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection.

Correlation between basal AMH and E_2

Pearson analysis between E_2 and AMH presented a Pearson Correlation co-efficient of 0.151 with $p = 0.341$ ($p < 0.05$) which indicates that a weak significant relationship exists between E_2 and AMH. Most previous studies (Ramalho de Carvalho et al., 2012, Ubaldi et al., 2005) have shown a relationship between a raised basal E_2 level and a reduced ovarian response using different values to express elevated estrogen levels which replicated the findings in this study therefore showing that a low AMH can result in low estrogen levels. Also, it can be concluded that a poor AMH value results in a poor ovarian reserve indicating follicles produced will not be correlated to a raised estrogen level, therefore indicating poor follicle growth, thus reducing the number of oocytes produced. However, it was determined that meagre response to stimulus in IVF, indicative of a lower ovarian reserve, is associated with declined baseline serum AMH concentrations (Van Rooij et al., 2004). Consequently, when women have regular ovarian reserve and decent retort, disappointment of IVF must look for additional infertility reasons, e.g., male specific issue i.e. Y chromosome microdeletion. Furthermore, this conclusion is reinforced by the data of woman undergoing IVF which indicated that male factor infertility resulted in an unsuccessful cycle. Although E_2 levels in these cases were above those of controls, they are still within the range of 25-100 pg/ml (Sahmay et al., 2014), suggesting that E_2 single-handedly is not capable of predicting the female reproductive potential.

Correlation between basal AMH and Age

Pearson correlation between AMH and age (Table 6) presented a co-efficient of -0.028 thus displaying a weak, negative association with a $p = 0.859$ ($p > 0.05$). A stronger relationship between these two variables was expected as it is known that as age increases, AMH should decrease. This contrary association corresponds as reported by Van Rooij et al., (2004), where serum AMH levels decline with age in normal women with proven fertility. Also, it is suggested that serum AMH is

identified as the improved endocrine marker to measure the reproductive capability in advanced age.

Correlation between Basal AMH and FSH

Basal FSH is one of the primary endocrine markers presented into ART program. The Pearson correlation amid AMH and FSH (Table 6) had a coefficient of -0.185 thus displaying a weak, negative relationship and with a $p=0.240$ ($p>0.05$). This study specifies a negative correlation, i.e., the higher the FSH the higher the chances the patient can present with a poor ovarian reserve and early menopause. It is routine practice to frequently measure the basal FSH level and to start IVF treatment only when the FSH level is lower than threshold value in a cycle. This was strategic on the awareness that these women will retort well to ovarian stimulation while the basal FSH level is lesser at the beginning of the cycle. The outcomes of this study revealed that woman who were poor respondents or had a reduced ovarian reserve had a poor outcome and frequent testing is of no worth. Women who had a history of high FSH level must undergo treatment without further delay. By postponing treatment for these patients can be detrimental as they get older and fast approaching menopause (Uzumcu and Zama, 2016).

Correlation between Age and FSH and Number of oocytes

The Pearson Correlation between FSH and age (Table 6) displayed no statistical significance, $p=0.583$ ($p>0.05$). For most of Pearson Correlation analysis, no significant relationships were found with most of the p -values, being greater than 0.05. This may be due to the small sample size used in this study of 42 patients. AMH being compared to age and number of oocytes showed a slightly negative correlation which is expected as it is shown in previous studies that AMH and number of oocytes decrease with maternal age (van Rooij et al., 2004) and Gobikrushant et al. (2018). This inverse relationship is in agreement by Van Rooij et al. (2004), who reported that serum AMH levels deteriorate with age in normal women with proven fertility. Additionally, serum AMH indicates the simplest endocrine marker to measure the age-related decline of reproductive competence. AMH levels, in our group who were high respondents were over 3.0 ng/ml, normal respondent over 1.0 ng/ml and low respondents found to be below 0.9 ng/ml. Oocytes were still recovered even with low AMH levels. Neither fertilization rate nor embryo quality can be assessed using basal AMH levels. This contrasts with the findings reported by Vaegter et al. (2017), where

embryos had superior morphology and cleavage performance in patients with AMH levels > 2.7 ng/ml as compared with patients with values below this threshold.

Correlation between AMH and the number of oocytes, number of mature oocytes and number of oocytes fertilized

Our second objective of the study was to examine if AMH levels affected oocyte quality. In this study, the Pearson Correlation test (Table 6) showed no significant relationship between AMH and number of oocytes ($p = 0.191$), several mature oocytes ($p = 0.300$) and number of oocytes fertilized ($p = 0.146$). The number of oocytes, mature oocytes and oocytes fertilized all showed a weak positive relationship to AMH (0.206, 0.164, and 0.228, respectively). These findings are in agreement with that reported by La Marca and Sunkara (2014); La Marca et al., (2010) and Dehghani-Firouzabadi et al. (2008), where mean amount of oocytes was lower in poor responding patients than in normal patients attending IVF programs. This therefore led to the inference that ovarian response can be regarded as a reflection of the ovarian reserve. The Chi-square test for Independence was done to determine whether there is an association between the number of oocytes collected and the AMH category (Table 8). A Chi-squared value of 21.246, degrees of freedom = 8, with a $p = 0.007$ was observed. There was a significant relationship between the numbers of oocytes collected versus AMH category ($p < 0.05$). The Chi-square test for Independence was performed to see whether there is an association between the number of oocytes fertilized and the AMH category (Table 9). A Chi-squared value of 18.5, degrees of freedom = 12, with a $p = 0.10$ was found. There was thus no statistically significant relationship between the numbers of embryo's fertilized versus AMH category ($p > 0.05$). This is anticipated as AMH has been used an indicator of oocyte reserve in previous studies whereas the resulting fertilized or transferred embryo's may be due to a chance process based on many various factors such as the quality of the oocyte and sperm (Yarde et al., 2013). Ebner et al. (2006), demonstrated that AMH serum levels were related with oocyte quality in stimulated cycles. The quality of the embryos was not assessed using baseline AMH which agrees with our findings. However, the fertilization rate was not correlated with the serum AMH which varied with the results of the present study.

AMH category and positive pregnancies

Embryo quality has been suggested to be of paramount importance to predict the occurrence of pregnancy after IVF. In a regression model E_2 has a $p = 0.017$ ($p < 0.05$) and LH has a $p = 0.035$

($p < 0.05$). Both variables are significant and age and basal AMH play a role in the pregnancy outcome and the model is thus adjusted for these two variables

In this study, AMH value for predicting pregnancy outcomes does not exist because oocyte quality is not accounted for by ovarian reserve markers. As demonstrated in this study the clinical pregnancy rate for patients 20 - 24 years was 100%, 25 - 29 was 50%, 30 – 34 years was 18%, 35 – 39 years was 27% and 40 - 44 years was 25% (Figure 1). Patients presenting with a low AMH did not vary from those women presenting with higher AMH concentrations in same age group. A positive pregnancy outcome was logged across all age groups regardless of the AMH level. These results advocate that low ovarian reserve is not correlated with low oocyte quality in patients and the prediction remains the similar despite low AMH concentrations. Kini et al. (2010) stated the role of AMH in foreseeing cumulative pregnancy outcome during IVF treatment. It was recognized that serum AMH concentration on day 6 of stimulation was suggestively higher in participants who resulted in an ongoing pregnancy in IVF compared to those who did not. Serum AMH is a suitable indicator of ovarian hyper-response. In a metanalysis study conducted by Yao et al. (2015) to evaluate role of serum AMH role in forecasting the pregnancy outcome in IVF/ICS, it was concluded that there is positive correlation between serum AMH and pregnancy. Nevertheless, association between serum AMH and non-pregnancy cannot be ruled out either.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the outcomes of our investigations specify that AMH has established to be a valuable marker for ovarian reserve and might benefit woman who plan for pregnancy. AMH hormone seems to be the best endocrine marker, however, the valuable role of AMH and its role in ovarian function should be looked at in relation to the other markers to assess the decline of the ovarian pool. While appropriate reference values are being generated per age category and until the consequences of having a low or high AMH for one's age are being established, AMH should only be determined in the context of clinical studies. At present, the most important clinical role of AMH at this stage is to serve as a red flag for reduced ovarian reserve in women of reproductive age who must undergo further diagnostics. As per the study conducted, we can infer that AMH can accurately predict ovarian reserve but cannot predict the oocyte quality or a positive pregnancy outcome. The more oocytes obtained, increases a patient's chance of more viable embryos and therefore, improving chances of a healthy pregnancy and ultimately a live birth. Further research

on the implication of varying levels of AMH within the follicular fluid may be representative as an indicator of “quality” in addition to the number of growing follicles.

Study Limitation

A noteworthy restraint of the current study was the lack of antral follicle count (AFC) at time of oocyte collection.

Conflict of Interest

Authors declare no conflict of interest

Authors Contribution

[SU] and [JKA] contributed to the study conception and design. [SU] performed all experiments, [SU], [KSBN] and [JKA] performed material preparation, data collection and analysis. The first draft of the manuscript was written by [KSBN] and all authors commented on previous versions of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

References

- Alson SSE, Bungum IJ, Giwercman A & Henic E. 2018. Anti-mullerian hormone levels are associated with live birth rates in ART, but the predictive ability of anti-mullerian hormone is modest. *European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology*, 225, 199-204.
- Anderson RA, Nelson SM & Wallace WHB. 2012. Measuring anti-Müllerian hormone for the assessment of ovarian reserve: When and for whom is it indicated? *Maturitas*, 71, 28-33.
- Chang, M.Y., Chiang, C.H., T'sang-T'ang Hsieh, M.D., Soong, Y.K. and Hsu, K.H., . 1998. 'Use of the antral follicle count to predict the outcome of assisted reproductive technologies. ', *Fertility and Sterility*, 69, 505-510
- Caroppo E., Matteo M, Schonauer IM, Vizziello G, Pasquadibisceglie A, Vitti A & Damato G. 2006. Basal FSH concentration as a predictor of IVF outcome in older women undergoing stimulation with GnRH antagonist. *Reproductive biomedicine online*, 13, 815-820.
- Dehghani FR, Tayebi, N & Asgharnia M. 2008. Serum level of anti-mullerian hormone in early follicular phase as a predictor of ovarian reserve and pregnancy outcome in assisted reproductive technology cycles.
- Dewailly, Didier, Claus Yding Andersen, Adam Balen, Frank Broekmans, Nafi Dilaver, Renato Fanchin, Georg Griesinger, Tom W Kelsey, Antonio La Marca, and Cornelius Lambalk. 2014. 'The physiology and clinical utility of anti-Müllerian hormone in women', *Human Reproduction Update*, 20: 370-85.

- Ebner T, Sommergruber M, Moser M, Shebl O, Schreier-lechner E & Tews G. 2006. Basal level of anti-Müllerian hormone is associated with oocyte quality in stimulated cycles. *Human reproduction*, 21, 2022-2026.
- Gardner DK, lane M, Stevens J & Schoolcraft WB. 2001. Noninvasive assessment of human embryo nutrient consumption as a measure of developmental potential. *Fertility and sterility*, 76, 1175-1180.
- Gobikrushanth M, Purfield DC, Colazo M, Butler ST, Wang Z. & Ambrose D. 2018. The relationship between serum anti-Müllerian hormone concentrations and fertility, and genome-wide associations for anti-Müllerian hormone in Holstein cows. *Journal of dairy science*, 101, 7563-7574.
- Grynnerup AGA, Lindhard A & Sorensen S. 2012. The role of anti-Mullerian hormone in female fertility and infertility - an overview. *Acta Obstetrica Et Gynecologica Scandinavica*, 91, 1252-1260.
- Kini S, Li HR, Morrell, D, Pickering S & Thong KJ. 2010. Anti-mullerian hormone and cumulative pregnancy outcome in in-vitro fertilization. *Journal of assisted reproduction and genetics*, 27, 449-456.
- Kumar A, Kalra B, Patel A, McDavid I & Roudebush WE. 2010. Development of a second generation anti-Müllerian hormone (AMH) ELISA. *Journal of immunological methods*, 362, 51-59.
- Kunt C, Ozaksit G, Kurt RK, Gungor ANC, Kanat-Pektas M, Kilic S & Dede A. 2011. Anti-Mullerian hormone is a better marker than inhibin B, follicle stimulating hormone, estradiol or antral follicle count in predicting the outcome of in vitro fertilization. *Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics*, 283, 1415-1421.
- La Marca A, Sighinolfi G, Radi D, Argento,C, Baraldi E, Artenisio AC, Stabile G & Volpe A. 2010. Anti-Mullerian hormone (AMH) as a predictive marker in assisted reproductive technology (ART). *Human Reproduction Update*, 16, 113-130.
- La Marca A & Sunkara SK. 2014. Individualization of controlled ovarian stimulation in IVF using ovarian reserve markers: from theory to practice. *Human Reproduction Update*, 20, 124-140.
- Oskayli MC, Gulcin N, Ozatman E, Gercel G, Mutus M, Aksu B & Durakbasa CU. 2019. Assessment of ovarian reserve using serum anti-Mullerian hormone after ovarian torsion surgery. *Pediatrics International*, 61, 504-507.
- Palermo R. 2007. Differential actions of FSH and LH during folliculogenesis. *Reproductive biomedicine online*, 15, 326-337.
- Park HJ, Iyu SW, Seok HH, Yoon TK & Lee WS. 2015. Anti-Müllerian hormone levels as a predictor of clinical pregnancy in in vitro fertilization/intracytoplasmic sperm injection-embryo transfer cycles in patients over 40 years of age. *Clinical and Experimental Reproductive Medicine*, 42, 143.
- Ramvalho de Carvalho B, Gomes Sobrinho DB, Vieira ADD, Resend MPS, Barbosa ACP, Silva AA & nakagava, h. m. 2012. Ovarian reserve assessment for infertility investigation. *ISRN obstetrics and gynecology*, 2012.
- Richards JS. 2018. The ovarian cycle. *Vitamins and hormones*. Elsevier.
- Saldeen, Pia, Karin Källen, and Per Sundström. 2007. 'The probability of successful IVF outcome after poor ovarian response', *Acta Obstetrica Et Gynecologica Scandinavica*, 86: 457-61
- Sahmay S, Oncul M, Tuten A, Tok A, Acikgoz AS & Cepni I. 2014. Anti-Müllerian hormone levels as a predictor of the pregnancy rate in women of advanced reproductive age. *Journal of assisted reproduction and genetics*, 31, 1469-1474.
- Scheffer JAB, Scheffer B, Scheffer R, Florencio F, Grynberg M & Lozano DM. 2018. Are age and anti-Mullerian hormone good predictors of ovarian reserve and response in women undergoing IVF? *Jornal Brasileiro De Reproducao Assistida*, 22, 215-220.
- Ubaldi FM, Rienzi I, Ferrero S, Baroni E, Sapienza F, Cobellis I & Greco E. 2005. Management of poor ovarian responders in IVF. *Reproductive biomedicine online*, 10, 235-246.
- Uzumcu M & Zama AM. 2016. Developmental Effects of Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals in the Ovary and on Female Fertility. *The Epigenome and Developmental Origins of Health and Disease*. Elsevier.

- 396 Vaegter KK, Lakic TG, Olovsson M, Berglund I, Brodin T & Holte J. 2017. Which factors are most predictive
397 for live birth after in vitro fertilization and intracytoplasmic sperm injection (IVF/ICSI) treatments?
398 Analysis of 100 prospectively recorded variables in 8,400 IVF/ICSI single-embryo transfers. *Fertility
399 and sterility*, 107, 641-648. e2.
- 400 Van Rooij IA, Den Tonkelaar I, Broekmans FJ, Looman CW, Scheffer GJ, de Jong FH, Themmen AP & Te
401 Velde ER. 2004. Anti-müllerian hormone is a promising predictor for the occurrence of the
402 menopausal transition. *Menopause*, 11, 601-606.
- 403 Yao I, Zhang W, Li H & Lin W. 2015. The role of serum AMH and FF AMH in predicting pregnancy outcome
404 in the fresh cycle of IVF/ICSI: a meta-analysis. *International journal of clinical and experimental
405 medicine*, 8, 1755.
- 406 Yang, Peiwen, Ruxing Wu, and Hanwang Zhang. 2020. 'The effect of growth hormone supplementation in
407 poor ovarian responders undergoing IVF or ICSI: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials',
408 *Reproductive Biology and Endocrinology*, 18: 76.
- 409 Yarde F, Voorhuis M, Dolleman M, Knauff EAH, Eijkemans MJC & Broekmans FJM. 2013. Antimüllerian
410 hormone as predictor of reproductive outcome in subfertile women with elevated basal follicle-
411 stimulating hormone levels: a follow-up study. *Fertility and Sterility*, 100, 831-+.
- 412 Zargar M, Najafian M & Zamanpour Z. 2018. Relationship between follicular fluid and serum anti-Müllerian
413 hormone levels and pregnancy rate in ART cycles. *Perinatología y Reproducción Humana*, 32, 3-8.

Figure 1(on next page)

Number of patients associated with pregnancies in relevant age groups

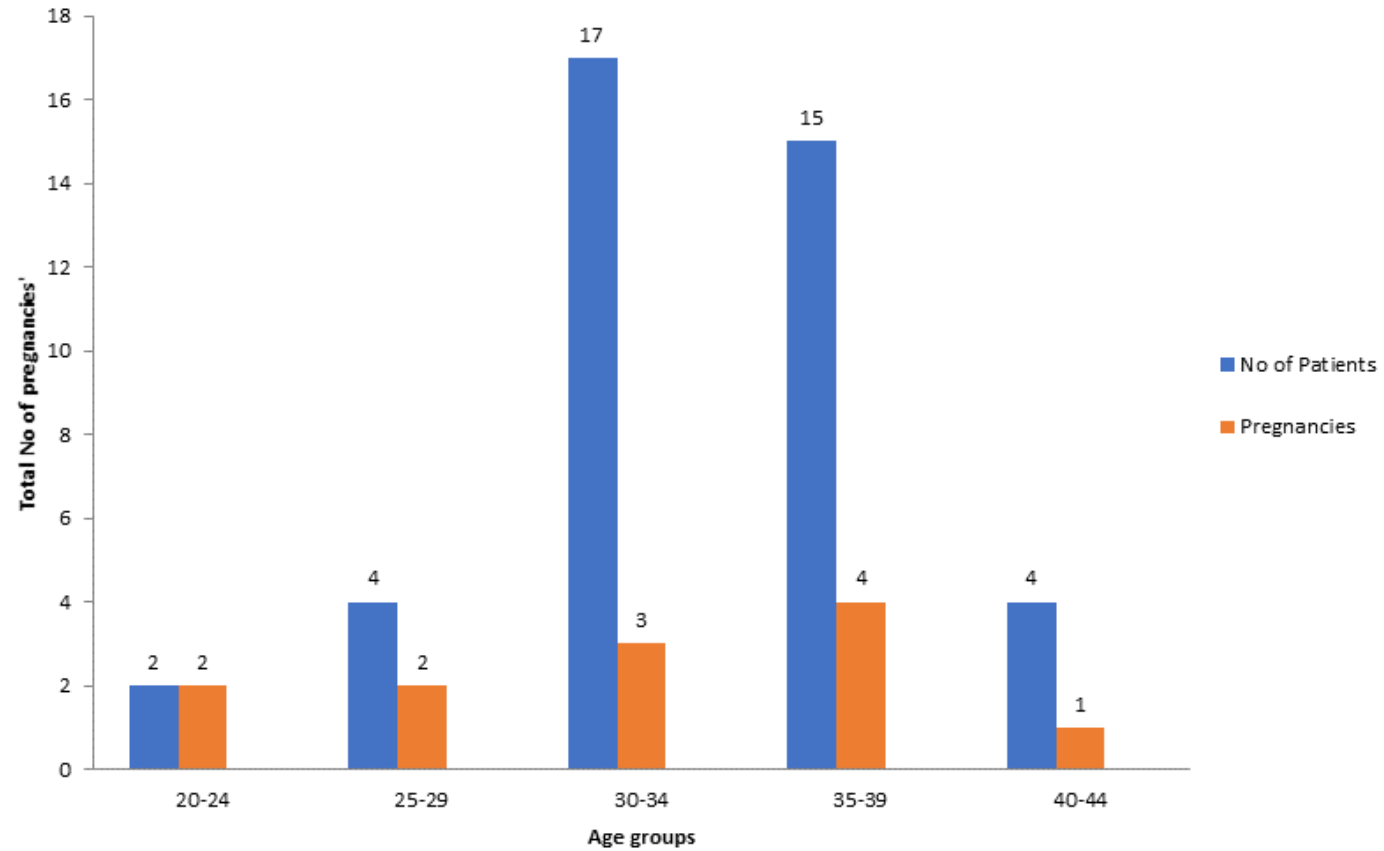


Figure 2

Sensitivity and specificity of E₂ and AMH in predicting pregnancy.

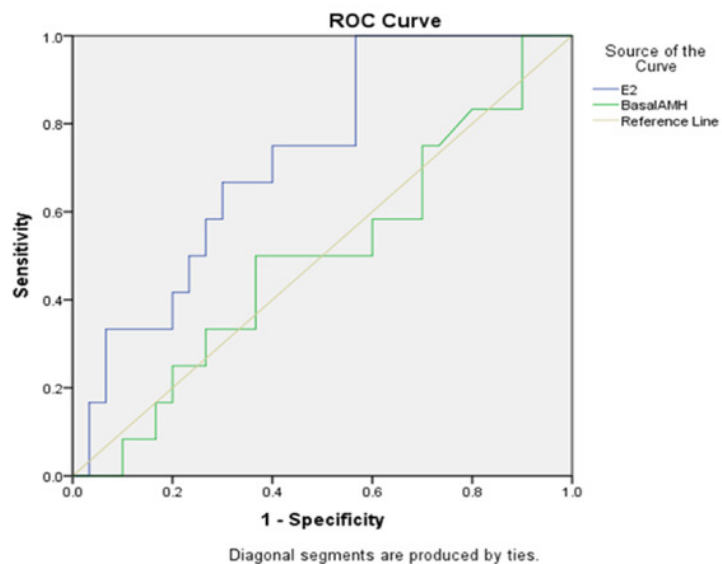


Table 1 (on next page)

AMH distribution in blood samples

Table 1. AMH distribution in blood samples

Category	AMH Blood Level Concentration	Frequency	% Patients
High (often PCOS)	≥ 3.0 ng/ml	22	52.4
Normal	≥ 1.0 ng/ml	17	40.5
Low Normal Range	$\leq 0.3 - 0.9$ ng/ml	3	7.1

Table 2(on next page)

Correlation between AMH and number of oocytes collected, matured, and fertilised during stimulation

Table 2. Correlation between AMH and number of oocytes collected, matured, and fertilised during stimulation

		Total no. of oocytes collected	Total no. of oocytes matured	Total no. of oocytes fertilized	% oocytes collected	% oocytes matured	% oocytes fertilized
	High	81	62	69	65.4%	60%	61.6%
AMH category	Normal	38	36	38	30.6%	35%	33.9%
	Low to Normal	5	5	5	4.0%	5%	4.5%
Total		124	103	112	100%	100%	100%

Table 3(on next page)

Chi Square analysis of number of embryos transferred and AMH

Table 3. Chi Square analysis of number of embryos transferred and AMH

	Value	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi Square	6.384 ^a	4	.172
Likelihood Ratio	7.001	4	.136
N of Valid Cases	42		

a. 7 cells (77.8%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 0.08

Table 4(on next page)

Chi Square analysis of AMH and day of embryo transfer

Table 4. Chi Square analysis of AMH and day of embryo transfer.

	Value	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi Square	14.117 ^a	6	0.028
Likelihood Ratio	6.432	6	0.377
N of Valid Cases	42		

a. 10 cells (83.3%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 0.05

Table 5(on next page)

Pregnancy outcome and AMH category

Table 5. Pregnancy outcome and AMH category

AMH Category	Pregnancy Result		
	Negative	Positive	Total
High	16	6	22
Normal	11	6	17
Low Normal	3	0	3
Total	30	12	42

Table 6(on next page)

Pearson correlation between basal AMH and E₂, Age and FSH and oocytes

Table 6. Pearson correlation between basal AMH and E₂, Age and FSH and oocytes

		E ₂	Age	FSH	Number of oocytes	Number of mature oocytes	Number of oocytes fertilized
AMH	Pearson correlation coefficient	0.151	-0.028	- 0.185	0.206	0.164	0.228
	Significance value (2-tailed)	0.341	0.859	0.240	0.191	0.300	0.146
	No. in the sample	42	42	42	42	42	42
Age	Pearson Correlation			- 0.087	-0.271		
	Significance value (2-tailed)			0.583	0.082		
	No. in the sample			42	42		

Table 7 (on next page)

Logistic regression analysis of the variables for the prediction of pregnancy

Table 7. Logistic regression analysis of the variables for the prediction of pregnancy

	B	Standard error (S.E.)	Wald	Degree of Freedom (df)	p-value	OR = Exp (B)
E ₂	.001	.000	3.396	1	.065	1.001
LH	-.556	.273	4.144	1	.042	.574
Basal AMH	-.335	.239	1.967	1	.161	.715
Age	-.146	.091	2.593	1	.107	.864
Non-Fertilized	.150	.368	.166	1	.683	1.162
Basal FSH	-.102	.136	.559	1	.455	.903
Constant	4.451	3.452	1.663	1	.197	85.744

E₂, Estrogen; LH, luteinizing hormone; AMH, anti-Mullerian hormone; FSH, follicle stimulating hormone. LH has $p = 0.042$ ($p < 0.05$) and E₂ has $p = 0.065$, which is significant at a 10 % level. In this logistic regression model, the remaining variables are not significant (p -values > 0.10).

Table 8(on next page)

Chi Square analysis of Number of oocytes fertilized and AMH

Table 8: Chi Square analysis of Number of oocytes collected and AMH.

	Value	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi Square	21.246 ^a	8	.007
Likelihood Ratio	21.317	8	.006
N of Valid Cases	42		

^a13 cells (86.7%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 0.12

Table 9(on next page)

Chi Square analysis of Number of oocytes collected and AMH

Table 9. Chi Square analysis of Number of oocytes fertilized and AMH.

	Value	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi Square	18.504 ^a	12	.101
Likelihood Ratio	17.736	12	.124
N of Valid Cases	42		

^a18 cells (85.7%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 0.02