

# Review of: "Hematobiochemical variability and predictors of new-onset and persistent postpartum preeclampsia"

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I read with great interest the article by Linda Ahenkorah Fondjo et al in their article "Hematobiochemical variability and predictors of new-onset and persistent postpartum preeclampsia" they have tried to define two terms, antepartum preeclampsia (PE) that could be extended even to post-partum period (PPE) and disappears thereafter and new-onset postpartum PE (NOPPE). In the second one a normotensive pregnant woman develops PE de novo after delivery. They concluded that NOPPE and PPE are different pathological conditions and require different clinical management. As the antepartum PE is largely considered as a disorder of abnormal placentation, with subsequent release of abnormal levels of anti-angiogenic and vasoactive molecules into maternal circulation, such as soluble fms-like tyrosine kinase 1 (sFlt-1) and decreased serum levels of placental growth factor (PlGF). In this study, the levels of sFlt-1 were not different between the NOPPE women and the normotensive controls, but it was significantly lower than the levels in PPE patients. Post-partum period is a vulnerable period, and the special time for presentation of disease such as Postpartum hemolytic uremic syndrome (PHUS), that is defined as a thrombotic microangiopathy (TMA) following a normal delivery after a long symptom-free interval that could be about one month (1) it is characterized by microvasculature occlusion of the kidney, resulting in acute renal failure. The relative deficiency of ADAMTS-13, a metalloprotease that cleaves ultra-large von Willebrand factor (VWF) is responsible for the disease, and it has been proposed that during the postpartum period, the pregnancy period protection conferred by the overexpression of Decay Accelerating Factor and CD59 is lost after placental delivery. (2)

AFLP that presents with acute renal failure and persistent hypoglycemia may, due to disordered maternal mitochondrial fatty acids metabolism, could also happen after delivery. (3)

It does not look like that NOPPE and PPE are different pathological conditions that require different clinical attention. Placental derived factor that makes the uterine and systemic circulation refractory to various vasopressors, including angiotensin II, endothelin, neuropeptide Y, norepinephrine, epinephrine, may drop after delivery. As the half-life of different vasoactive substances are different post-partum period could be a vulnerable period of potential imbalance with dominance toward the vasoconstrictor ones. And the condition could be considered as a continuum with different time of presentation.

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