Reviewer's report

Title: Determination of Interleukin-6 and Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha concentrations in Iranian-Khorasanian patients with preeclampsia.

Version: 1 Date: 21 April 2005

Reviewer: p Lopez-Jaramillo

Reviewer's report:

This study has evaluated the serum levels of IL-6 and TNF-α in 24 women with preeclampsia and in 18 antepartum normotensive pregnant women. The results show that IL-6 levels were significantly higher in women with preeclampsia, but there was no change in TNF-α. Although there are some studies that demonstrated a higher concentrations of these cytokines in preeclampsia, still the results are of potential interest. However, there are a number of issues that need to be addressed.

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

1. Introduction. Describe that IL-6 and TNF-α are also produced in the adipose tissue, and the importance of this tissue in endothelial dysfunction.
2. Materials and Methods: Provide more data about the within assay coefficients of variation and limits of sensitivity for each of the cytokine assays.
3. Results: Describe in the text or in the table 1 the weigh, body mass index and the weigh gain during pregnancy of the women included in the study by groups.
4. Discussion. Discuss the possible reasons of the discrepancy with previous reports that have shown higher levels of TNF-α in preeclampsia.
5. Discussion. Discuss about the eventual role of overweight in the increased levels of IL-6 and not only the role of immune activation.

DISCRETIONARY REVISION

1. Will be nice to have the data of fasting glicemia and insuline by groups.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'