

## VALUES OF FREE $\beta$ -HCG AND PAPP-A IN SERUM OF WOMEN IN THE FIRST TRIMESTER PREGNANCY

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**Summary:** Alpha-fetoprotein, human chorionic gonadotropin and free estriol have been determined in pregnant women in last fifteen years as biochemical markers of prenatal screening. The developing of the new biochemical markers PAPP-A (Pregnancy Associated Plasma Protein-A) and free  $\beta$ -hCG enabled moving of time-window of prenatal screening into first trimester. In this study we examined PAPP-A and free  $\beta$ -hCG to establish the reference values for the first trimester and to find whether these biochemical markers might detect women at high risk for adverse pregnancy outcomes. These results are the part of the master work titled »Values of alpha-fetoprotein, Pregnancy-Associated Plasma Protein-A and human chorionic gonadotropin hormone in serum of healthy pregnant women in the first trimester of pregnancy«. We studied 1106 pregnant women which were divided into two groups. The control group includes 891 pregnant women from 8 to 20 weeks of gestation, all giving birth to an unaffected baby. From their results we established the medians and reference limits for every week of gestation. The second group includes 215 pregnant women from 8 to 14 weeks of gestation, monitored during their whole pregnancies. This group is divided into subgroups according to pregnancy complications. Individual values were expressed as multiple of medians (MoM) and that enabled comparison of the results between the monitoring groups, concerning that values of examined markers depend of gestation age and varied as pregnancy advanced. The results of this study show that PAPP-A is most sensitive marker of chromosomal disorders in early pregnancy, while structural anomalies are not detected. Free  $\beta$ -hCG has been varied in a specific way in early pregnancies with complications and has certain predictive value.

**Key words:** alpha-fetoprotein, human chorionic gonadotropin, free estriol, Pregnancy Associated Plasma Protein-A, prenatal screening

## VREDNOSTI SLOBODNOG $\beta$ -HCG I PAPP-A U SERUMU TRUDNICA U PRVOM TRIMESTRU TRUDNOĆE

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**Kratak sadržaj:** Alfa-fetoprotein, humani horioni gonadotropni hormon i slobodni estriol određuju se u poslednjih petnaest godina u serumu trudnih žena u drugom trimestru trudnoće kao biohemski markeri prenatalnog screening-a. Otkriće novih biohemskih markera, PAPP-A (Pregnancy Associated Plasma Protein-A) i slobodnog  $\beta$ -hCG, omogućilo je pomeranje prenatalnog screening-a u prvi trimestar trudnoće. U radu su prikazani rezultati određivanja PAPP-A i slobodnog  $\beta$ -hCG sa ciljem da se ustanove referentne vrednosti u prvom trimestru, kao i da se utvrdi da li ovi biohemski markeri mogu da detektuju žene sa visokim rizikom za loš ishod trudnoće. Ovi rezultati predstavljaju deo magistarske teze pod naslovom »Vrednosti alfa-fetoproteina, PAPP-A i humanog horionogonadotropnog hormona u serumu zdravih trudnica u prvom trimestru trudnoće, za potrebe procene rizika za pojavu abnormalnosti u trudnoći«. Ispitivanje je obuhvatilo 1106 trudnih žena koje su podjeljene u dve grupe. Jedna je kontrolna grupa, koju čini 891 trudnica gestacione starosti od 8 do 20 nedelja, s normalnim ishodom na porođaju, na osnovu čijih su rezultata utvrđene medijane i referentne vrednosti za svaku nedelju gestacije. Drugu grupu čini 215 trudnica od 8 do 14 nedelja gestacije, praćene tokom cele trudnoće, koje su podjeljene u grupe prema ishodu trudnoće. Vrednosti biohemskih markera konvertovane su u MoM, što je omogućilo poređenje rezultata između grupa, s obzirom da vrednosti ispitivanih biohemskih markera zavise od gestacione starosti i menjaju se sa napredovanjem trudnoće. Rezultati istraživanja ukazuju da u ranoj trudnoći PAPP-A ima najveću osetljivost u detekciji hromozomskih poremećaja fetusa, dok strukturne anomalije ne registruje. Slobodni  $\beta$ -hCG takođe se menja na specifičan način u ranoj trudnoći sa lošim ishodom i ima određena prediktivna svojstva.

**Ključne reči:** alfa-fetoprotein, humani horioni gonadotropin, slobodni estriol, Pregnancy Associated Plasma Protein A, prenatalni screening