RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INCREASED SEMINAL LEUKOCYTES AND VARICOCELE

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Objective: Inflammation of the seminal vesicles is the most common reason for male infertility due to varicocele. In the initial stages, such inflammation displays no symptoms. Nevertheless, the decrease in sperm motility is associated with an increase in the number of pathological forms. As the disorder progresses, the quantity of live spermatozoa decreases, the quantity of leukocytes in semen increases, and finally, the ejaculate volume reduces. However, there is a lack of information regarding the relationship between seminal leukocytes in normal fertile men with varicocele. We conducted this study to evaluate whether normal fertile men with varicocele have higher leukocyte levels in their semen. Design: Retrospective study at a tertiary care institution. University based center. Materials and Methods: 637 men who requested vasectomy for voluntary sterilization purposes from January 2000 to February 2002 underwent a semen analysis before their vasectomy. Peroxidase-positive granulocytes were identified by histochemical staining using Endtz test. Results: Varicocele was detected in 104 of the 637 (16.35%) fertile men evaluated. Forty-six (44.2%) patients had a left varicocele, 1 (0.96%) a right varicocele, and 57 (54.8%) had a bilateral varicocele. Thirty-five varicoceles were grade I, 58 grade II, and 10 grade III. Two out of 104 (1.92%) varicocele patients had a positive Endtz test result. In the patients without varicocele, 13 of the 533 (2.4%) had a positive Endtz test result. We saw no correlation between leukocytospermia and varicocele (p = 0.54) in fertile men. Also, there was no correlation between the grade of varicocele and the presence of leukocytospermia (p = 0.82). Conclusion: We conclude that seminal vesicle inflammation may be a more common occurrence in infertile men with varicocele. Support: None

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