SEMEN QUALITY AND ROS-TAC SCORE IN MEN WITH VARICOCELE
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Aims
Compare the semen quality and the relation between reactive oxygen species (ROS) and total antioxidant capacity (TAC), the ROS-TAC score in patients with incidental varicocele with infertile patients with varicocele and to a known group of fertile and infertile men treated for their infertility.

Methods
Principal component analysis was applied to different semen characteristics to provide a standardized score in 36 men with varicocele: group A: 21 infertile patients with varicocele; group B: 15 with patients with incidental varicocele attending our infertility clinic. ROS-TAC score was formulated using principal components to predict fertility potential in these men. A logistic regression analysis was used to provide estimates of fertility based on the ROS-TAC score.

Results
No differences were seen in sperm concentration (37.0 ± 5.9 vs. 42.3 ± 10.2), motility (35.6 ± 3.5 vs. 48.6 ± 5.0), and morphology (30.6 ± 2.8 vs. 32.0 ± 3.2) between groups A and B. The semen quality scores were not different between groups A (81.7 ± 10.5) and B (86.1 ± 13.6); (P = 0.5159). No differences were seen in the ROS-TAC scores between the group A (41.7 ± 13.1) and B (37.6 ± 11.0) (P = 0.3492). An estimated 26% of the infertile men with varicocele will remain infertile during one-year follow-up.

Conclusions
No differences were seen in semen quality and ROS-TAC scores between fertile and infertile patients with varicocele. Only twenty-six percent of the infertile men with varicocele tend to remain infertile within one year based on the ROS-TAC score.