

International Journal of Farmacia

Journal Home page: www.ijfjournal.com

LACTOFERT tablet: A comprehensive nutrient support to boost reproductive health in women

GovindShukla, MonicaYadav, Madugula Mahender, C.J.Sampath Kumar

Lactonova Nutripharm (P) Ltd, Makers of LACTOFERT tablet 81/3, IDA Mallapur, Hyderabad, Telangana, India-500 076.

Corresponding Author: GovindShukla

ABSTRACT

Infertility can be defined as a lack of pregnancy after one year of regular unprotected intercourse. Approximately 15%-20% of couples of reproductive age are infertile, which can be attributed equally to both male and female factors.

Nutritional supplements may play an important role in optimizing fertility health, leading to improved conception rates, particularily in cases of menstrual irregularity or unexplained infertility.

LACTOFERT, A Female fertility tablet offers powerful & potent use in the management & optimization of reproductive health in women

INTRODUCTION

Infertility can be defined as a lack of pregnancy after one year of regular unprotected intercourse. Approximately 15%-20% of couples of reproductive age are infertile, which can be attributed equally to both male and female factors.

Recent research on the role of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in human infertility has received a great deal of interest from the scientists and medical practitioners [1-3].

Reactive oxygen species (ROS)

Reactive oxygen species (ROS) are oxygen derived molecules, which are formed a sinter mediary products and are a class of powerful oxidants in the human body. ROS include superoxide anion (O⁻2), hydrogen peroxide (H2O2) and hydroxyl radical (OH.). Some cells posses' specific mechanisms to produce ROS that are required for cellular functions in low concentrations [4]. Aerobic environment is a constant source of ROS through in vivo mechanisms such as electron leakage during biologic oxidations, and by physical activation of oxygen by external agents such as irradiation, e.g. UV sunlight. ROS are characterized by their ability to react with any molecule they come in contact and modify it oxidatively. The modification may result in structural and functional alterations and impair many cellular processes. Depending on their tissue concentration they can either exert beneficial physiologic effects (e.g. play role in fertilization process) or pathological damage to cellular components, including lipids, proteins and nucleic acids [5].

Antioxidant Defense system against ROS

Organisms have developed efficient protective mechanisms against excessive accumulation of ROS. ROS are neutralized by an elaborate antioxidant defense system consisting of enzymes such as catalase, super oxide dismutase and glutathione peroxidase/reductase, and numerous non-enzymatic antioxidants such as vitamin C, vitamin E, vitamin A, pyruvate, glutathione, taurine and hypotaurine [6]. In a healthy body, prooxidants and antioxidants maintain a ratio and a shift in this ratio towards pro-oxidants gives rise to oxidative stress. This oxidative stress may be either mild or severe depending on the extent of shift. Whenever ROS levels become pathologically elevated, antioxidants begin to work and help minimize the oxidative damage, repair it or prevent it altogether. The male and female genital tracts are rich in both enzymatic and non-enzymatic antioxidants [7-10].

Vitamins C and E act as chain-breaking antioxidants and thus prevent the propagation of peroxidative process.

ROS AND CELL INJURY

Lipid peroxidation

ROS can attack polyunsaturated fatty acids in the cell membrane leading to a chain of chemical reactions called lipid peroxidation. Fatty acid break down results in the formation of various oxidatively modified products, which are toxic to cells and are finally converted into stable end products. The spermatozoa membrane contains large amounts of poly unsaturated fatty acids [11], which maintain its fluidity. Peroxidation of these fatty acids leads to the loss of membrane fluidity and a reduction in the activity of membrane enzymes and ion channels. As a result, the normal cellular mechanisms that are required for fertilization are inhibited. It is possible to measure the extent of peroxidative damage by estimating the stableend products of lipid peroxidation such a small on dial dehyde [5].

DNA damage

Susceptibility of DNA to oxidative damage is indicated by the presence of oxidatively modified substances like 8-hydroxy-2-deoxyguanosine.

Deoxyribonucleic acid bases and phosphodiester backbones are sites that are susceptible to peroxidative damage. High levels of ROS mediate the DNA fragmentation that is commonly observed in thespermatozoa of infertile men [12, 13]. Normally, sperm DNA is protected from oxidative insult by its specific compact organization and by antioxidants in the seminal plasma. Spermatozoa are unique in that they cannot repair DNA and depend on the oocyte for repair after fertilization [14]. Various types of DNA abnormalitiesoccur in sperm that have been exposed to ROS artificially. These abnormalities include base modification, production of base-free sites, deletions, frame shifts, DNA cross-links and chromosome all rearrangements [15, 16]. Patients with high levels of oxidative stress in their seminal fluid were found to have sperm with multiple single and double DNA strand breaks [17]. A biomarker for oxidative DNA damage, 8-hydroxy-2deoxyguanosine, can be used to determine the extent of ROS-induced DNA damage.

Apoptosis

ROS may also initiate a chain of reactions that ultimately lead to apoptosis. Apoptosis is a natural process in which the body removes old and senescent cells; it is a process of programmed cell death. In humangerm cells, apoptosis may help remove abnormal germ cells and prevent their overproduction. Multiple extrinsic and intrinsic cell factors control the process of apoptosis [3]. The process of apoptosis may also be accelerated by ROS-induced DNA damage and ultimately may lead to a decline in sperm count [6].

MEASUREMENT OF OXIDATIVE STRESS

Oxidative stress can be estimated directly or indirectly. The direct measurement of ROS is by using electron spin resonance method and is used sparingly in reproductive medicine. Indirect tests oxidatively modified measure products. Chemiluminescence is a common method used and is based on emission of light on chemiluminescent reaction between ROS and reagent (luminal/lucigenin). The amount of light emitted is quantified and measured by a lumino meter.

Lipid peroxidation end products like malondialdehyde, lipid hydroper oxides, and conjugated dienes are commonly used to assess the oxidative stress.

Other methods are measurement of protein and DNA oxidation products, and changes in status of antioxidants. Flow cytometry is also being used to measure the individual ROS radicals [18].

ROS-TAC score

It is a concept to represent the oxidative stress status of individual more accurately. This score accommodate for the variations in both ROS and TAC (total antioxidant capacity) values [19]. Fertile men tend to have high ROS-TAC scores where asinfertile men generally have significantly lower scores. ROS levels can also be measured directly in neat semen, thereby offering yet another measure of oxidative stress.

Role of Oxidative Stress in Male Infertility

The presence of free radicals in the spermatozoa was reported by MacLeod 50 years ago [20]. Because spermatozoa lack cytoplasmic enzymes, they often are unable to prevent oxidative damage by these free radicals. This is one of the features that make spermatozoa highly susceptible to peroxidative damage. Most cytoplasmic enzymes are extruded during the final stages of the sperm maturation process, which enables sperm to attain their characteristic morphology [21]. Nature compensated for this deficiency by providing an array of antioxidants in the seminal plasma.

Sources of ROS

Morphologically abnormal spermatozoa and leukocytes are the major sources of ROS in the male reproductive tract. Even though mature spermatozoa may not produce pathologically significant levels of ROS, oxidative damage may occur in the epididymis and seminiferous tubules where they are in close contact with the immature, ROS producing spermatozoa and leukocytes [22].

ROS production is elevated in patients who have a large percentage of spermatozoa with excess residual cytoplasm in the mid piece [22]. Excess residual cytoplasm contains enzymes such as glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase and creatine phosphokinase, which are linked with generation of ROS and defective sperm function. ROS may be generated at the level of plasma membrane (NADPH-oxidase system) (23) or mitochondria (NADH-dependent oxido-reductase) [24].

Human spermatozoa generate O2 [25], which spontaneously or enzymatically dis mutates to H2O2. In the presence of metal ions (iron)-O2((and H2O2together produces the more harmful oxidant, OH.. Neutrophils and macrophages are the major source of oxidants in the reproductive tract [26, 27]. During inflammation and infection, activated leukocytes can produce significantly high era mounts of ROS than non-activated leukocytes [28]. The ROS production in leukocytes is through NADPH oxidase enzyme. Even though ROS is released as part of defense mechanism in to there productive tract, it can damage surrounding spermatozoa, especially when antioxidant systems are overwhelmed. The importance of leukocyte contamination in producing ROS is well observed in Percoll-washed spermatozoa where a small number of leukocytes produce ROS. Increased levels of seminal leukocytes may also stimulate human spermatozoa to produce ROS. Such stimulation may be mediated via direct cell-cell contact or by soluble products released by leukocytes [27].

Mechanism of loss of sperm function by ROS

ROS may affect the quality and number of spermatozoa reaching the ovum in the female reproductive tract. In addition, ROS impair the fertilization process by preventing the initiation of sperm-oocyte fusion events (14). Finally, ROS can impair embryo development and affect the health of offspring by damaging sperm DNA (16).

Impairment of standard semen parameters

Motility is a very important attribute unique to spermatozoa in entire human cells. Motility is indispensable to the spermatozoa, as it has to travel the female reproductive tract to reach the site of fertilization. Studies found that levels of ROS correlate with motility of spermatozoa [30, 31]. Invitro studies showed that the impaired motility maybe a temporary event or permanent phenomena.

Excessive ROS causes ATP to deplete rapidly resulting in decreased phosphorylation of axonemal proteins and cause transient impairment of motility [32]. Peroxidative damage to the sperm membrane and axonemal proteins appears to be the cause of permanent impairment in sperm motility. ROS appears to play a role in the apoptosis of spermatozoa by activating caspases. Under normal conditions, abnormal sperm undergo apoptosis, which minimizes their presence in the semen. These verity of oligozoospermia has been correlated with excessive levels of ROS [33]. ROS may stimulate the process of apoptosis, resulting in the death of spermatozoa and decreased sperm count [6]. Patients with a low sperm count have a reduced chance of initiating a pregnancy.

Impairment of sperm-oocyte fusion

A minimal amount of ROS is required for the normal sperm-oocyte fusion. Spermatozoa and oocyte has inbuilt mechanism to prevent excessive production of ROS at the time of sperm-oocyte fusion, this may be by the release of SOD (superoxide dismutase) [35]. If there is anabnormality in the production of SOD, ROS generation can continue uninterruptedly and damage both spermatozoa and oocyte. The affect of ROS on sperm fertilizing capacity cannot be quantified by measuring routine semen parameters. It is possible that the levels of ROS needed to impair sperm-oocyte fusion events are lower than those required to affect sperm motility. The inability of sperm to fuse with an oocyte appears to be due to the effects of ROS on the sperm membrane. The lipid peroxidation process results in loss of membrane fluidity due to disorganization of membrane architecture and reduction in the activity of membrane enzymes and ion channels. As a result, spermatozoa are unable to initiate the necessary biochemical reactions associated with acrosome reaction, zona pellucida binding and oocyte penetration [36, 37].

Sperm DNA damage

Sperm DNA contributes the half of genomic material to the offspring. Thus, normal sperm

genetic material is required for fertilization, embryo and fetus development and postnatal child well being [16, 38]. A recent study showed decreasing likelihood of pregnancy with increasing levels of 8-hydroxy-2-deoxyguanosine, an indicator of oxidative damage to DNA [39]. The percentage of sperm with DNA damage is negatively correlated with the fertilization rate [12]. Oocytes can repair DNA damage to some extent, but when the damage is severe, embryo death and miscarriages can occur. The affect of ROS on DNA integrity has become the focus of recent attention due to widespread use of assisted reproduction techniques (ART) such as intra cytoplasmic injection (ICSI). In natural pregnancy, oxidative damage to the sperm membranemay ensure that spermatozoa with damaged DNA lose their ability to fertilize an oocyte. How ever, sperm with DNA damage can potentially be injected into an oocyte in the ICSI resulting in fertilization and pregnancy which may progress to live birth with congenital abnormalities [34].

ROS & Male infertility

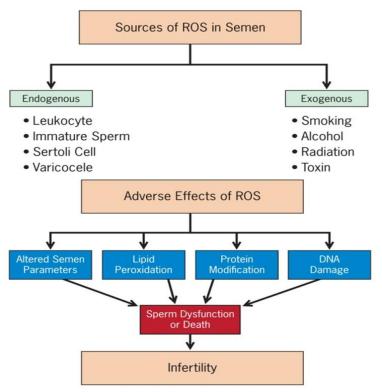
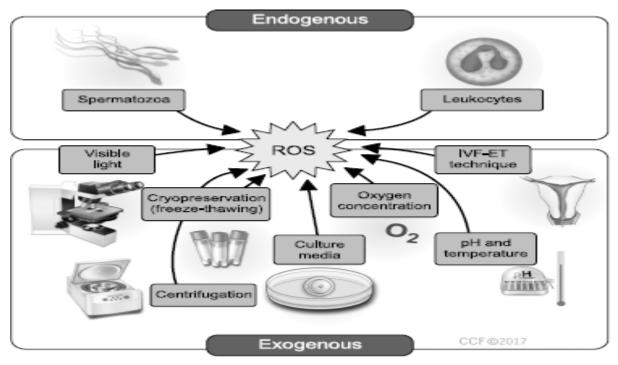


Figure 1: Common sources of excessive reactive oxygen species (ROS) in semen and their deleterious effect

Many clinical conditions were found to be associated with increased oxidative stress [33]. Infections and inflammations involving the male reproductive tract are obvious conditions associated with oxidative stress in view of excessive generation of ROS by leukocytes [40-42]. Very high percentage of spinal cord injury patients were reported to have elevated levels of oxidative stress [43, 44]. Mechanism of infertility in patients with varicoceleis poorly understood and ROS is postulated as a possible mediator [45, 46]. Elevated levels of ROS and depressed levels of TAC were associated with varicocele [47-49]. Patients who under went vasectomy reversal also had high levels of reactive oxygen species [50, 51]. A history of smoking was associated with high levels of oxidative stress [52].



ROLE OF ROS IN FEMALEINFERTILITY

Fig. 2. Sources of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in the assisted reproduction setting. IVF-ET: *in vitro* fertilization-embryo transfer.

Many studies reported the presence of oxidative and antioxidant systems in various female reproductive tissues [53-57]. ROS appears to have physiological role in female reproductive tract in many different processes such as: oocyte maturation, fertilization, luteal regression, and endometrial shedding [58, 59]. ROS levels in follicular fluid maybe used as markers for predicting the success of in vitro fertilization (IVF) [3].

Whenever there is imbalance in the levels of ROS and antioxidants- damage can occur to oocytes and embryos through various pathological mechanisms. Oxidative Stress can affect the female fertility potential in number of ways. It may affect the ovulation, fertilization, embryo development and implantation. The sources of ROS in Graafian follicle may be macrophages, neutrophils and granulosa cells. Follicular fluid contains high levels of antioxidants, which protect oocytes from ROSinduced damage. Significantly lower selenium levels were detected in follicular fluid of patients with unexplained infertility compared with those with tubal infertility or couple swith male factor infertility [60]. Another study reported that baseline TAC levels were higher in follicles whose oocytes fertilized successfully (61). Elevated levels of ROS in peritoneal fluid may be the cause of infertility in some women who do not have any other obvious cause. Elevated levels can damage the ovum after its release from the ovary, the zygote/embryo and spermatozoa are very sensitive to oxidative stress. Studies have compared ROS levels in peritoneal fluid between women undergoing laparoscopy for infertility evaluation and fertile women undergoing tubal ligation. ROS level sin the peritoneal fluid were significantly higher in the patients with idiopathic infertility compared with the fertile women [57, 62]. High levels of malondialdehyde and low levels of antioxidants in the peritoneal fluid were reported in patients with unexplained infertility compared to controls [63].

Oxidative stress& its role in endometriosis

Oxidative stress is postulated as one of the possible mechanism of endometriosis. [64]. The endometrial tissue has multiple cells like macrophages, red blood cells, which can generate ROS. Studies of women with endometriosis have suggested that peritoneal macrophages are responsible for increased production of ROS or increased expression of xanthine oxidase in endometrial cells [65, 66]. High levels of oxidatively modified substances in peritoneal fluid and ectopic endometrial tissue were reported [67]. Altered expression of defensive anti oxidantenzymes and low levels of vitamin E were reported in patients with endometriosis [68].

Effect of ROS on Embryo Growth

Oxidative stress appears to have a detrimental effect on the development of embryo. ROS may originate from embryo metabolism and from the surrounding environment [71, 72]. ROS not only alters most types of cellular molecules but also induces early embryonic developmental block and retardation [56]. High levels of ROS and apoptosis were reported in fragmented embryos compared to non-fragmented embryos [73].

Effects of Oxidative stress on in-vitro fertilization

DNA damage induced by oxidative stress has important clinical implications in the context of assisted reproduction. Spermatozoa selected for ART most likely originate from an environment experiencing OS, and a large percentage of these sperm may have damaged DNA (2). There is a strong possibility that spermatozoa with damaged DNA maybe used during ART [16], which can negatively affect the ART success rate and increase the risk of spontaneous abortion or offspring with genetic disorders. ROS levels in mature

spermatozoa correlate significantly with the fertilizing potential of spermatozoa [77, 78]. Estimating ROS levels may help predict the success rate of assisted reproduction procedures.

ROS and Sperm Preparation

A possible source of ROS in ART media is during the preparation of semen. Sperm preparation is necessary to enhance and maintain sperm quality and function after ejaculation before the semen specimen can be used for ART procedures [79]. The production of ROS may be due to either 1) activation of spermatozoa by centrifugation process, 2) absence of antioxidantrich seminal plasma, or 3) because of minimal contamination of ROS produced by leukocytes and abnormal spermatozoa. The small amount of ROS produced may not decrease motility but can still cause DNA damage [29]. A proper sperm preparation method should be selected so as to decrease the production of ROS.

THERAPEUTIC TREATMENT STRATEGIES AGAINST ROS

In both male and female reproduction, oxidative stress appears to be due to increased generation of ROS rather than a depletion of antioxidants. It isimportant to identify the source of increased ROS generation [80]. The underlying etiological factor for abnormal leukocyte infiltration (e.g.leukocytospermia, inflammation, infection, smoking) should be determined. Patients with history of smoking should be advised to stop smoking. Any exposure to drugs, toxic substances and radiation should be checked and patients advised to stop exposure to them. Infections of there productive tract should be treated with appropriate antibiotics.

Initially, specific therapeutic options directed against the etiological cause of raised ROS should be tried. Patients with reproductive tract infection should be treated with antibiotics. Antiinflammatory agents may help patients with persistent leukocytospermia and elevated levels of cytokines.

After treating the primary cause (such as varicocele), patients can be advised to take antioxidant supplementation. Antioxidants can be started directly when a specific etiology cannot be identified (idiopathic infertility).

Male infertility

Pathophysiology of male infertility

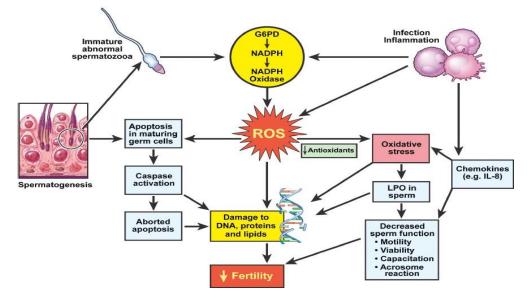


Fig 8: Pathophysiology of Male Infertility

Oxidative stress is an important aspect in male infertility

- Infertile men have very high levels of semen ROS
- Spermatogenesis is very sensitive to oxidative stress
- Protects sperm from oxidative damage
- Significantly improves sperm quality. Increases sperm count. Concentration, Motility, Morphology

Semen analysis should be repeated after a full spermatogenic cycle in those men showing large number of abnormal spermatozoa with excessive cytoplasm in the mid piece during a routine analysis. This can help distinguish between a temporary disturbance in spermatogenesis and a permanent defect in spermatogenesis.

Varicocelectomy may remove an unknown stimulus of ROS generation. Even though there is no definitive consensus on the use of antioxidants, many in vitro and in vivo studies have shown that they improve semen quality and fertility [80]. Some studies showed improvement in terms of pregnancy rate after antioxidants supplementation.

Oral vitamin E is an antioxidant favored by many researchers and clinicians. Oral administration of 300 mg twice a day of vitamin Ein a randomized double blind placebo control led trial showed significant improvement of pregnancy rates (21%; 11/52) in infertile (asthenozoospermic)patients, while resulting in lack of pregnancies in the placebo group. This study also found significant improvement in sperm motility, and reduced lipidper oxidation levels after vitamin E supplementation [81].

A combination of vitamin E and selenium inoligo as the note ratozoospermic (OAT) patients resulted in significant improvement in sperm motility, viability and morphology [82].

Treatment may be more appropriate if antioxidants are given to the patients with raised ROS levels.

The combination therapy of vitamins A plus E and essential fatty acids significantly reduced ROS and improved pregnancy rates [84].

Oral administration of 200 mg of Vitamin C, 200 mg of Vitamin E and 400 mg of GSH for 2months significantly improved serum levels of antioxidants and relatively decreased sperm DNA damage [13].

Female infertility

There are few studies on the role of antioxidants in female infertility (89, 90). Both the studies reported higher pregnancy rate with vitamin C supplementation compared to the control group. In vivo antioxidants may be helpful in infertile women who smoke, as history of smoking is associated with high levels of oxidative stress [55].

Use of antioxidants in IVF media appears to be useful in improving the pregnancy rates. Higher implantation and pregnancy rates were found when antioxidant supplemented media was used rather than standard media without antioxidants [91].

Antioxidants, especially vitamin C, can improve the blastocyst development rate in a mouse embryo model [92].

In ART procedures, sperm preparation techniques separate mature spermatozoa and thus minimize the interaction between ROS producing cells in semen (e.g. leukocytes, immature abnormal spermatozoa) and normal spermatozoa. Density gradient separation and swim-up methods are commonly used sperm preparation methods. Adding antioxidants to the sperm preparation media may help prevent ROS induced damage and preserves the quality of spermatozoa during ART procedures.

Composition of LACTOFERT tablet

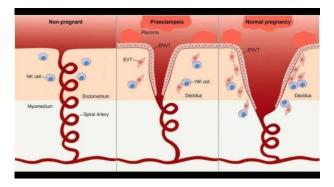
- L-arginine 100 mg
- L-Carnitine-L-Tartrate 250 mg
- Zinc (as Zinc Sulphate) 6 mg
- Vitamin E 5 mg

- Vitamin C 20 mg
- Selenium 20 mcg
- L-Glutathione (Reduced) 25 mg
- Coenzyme Q1050 mg
- Vitamin B120.5 mcg
- Astaxanthin 10% 20 mg
- Lycopene 10% 20 mg
- DHEA 25 mg.
- L-Arginine100 MG

PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTION OF EACH INGREDIENTS

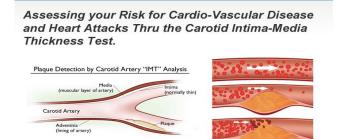
L-Arginine

Supplementation during pregnancy with a medical food containing L-arginine and antioxidant vitamins reduced the incidence of pre-eclampsia in a population at high risk of the condition.93 Antioxidant vitamins alone did not have a protective effect for prevention of pre-eclampsia. Development of blood vessels, and vascular endothelial growth factor protein expression in the endometrium.94 L-Arginine supplementation may be detrimental to embryo quality and pregnancy rate during controlled ovarian hyper stimulation cycles.



L-Carnitine-L-Tartrate

The study was performed to evaluate the effects of carnitine administration on carotid intima-media thickness (CIMT) and inflammatory markers in women with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), carnitine administration for 12 weeks to participants with PCOS had beneficial effects on CIMT and plasma NO. GovindShukla et al / Int. J. of Farmacia, 2019; Vol-(5) 4: 71-86



Zinc (as Zinc Sulphate)

Zinc plays critical roles during embryogenesis, fetal growth, and milk secretion, which increase the zinc need for pregnancy and lactation. Increased needs can be met by increasing the dietary zinc intake, along with making homeostatic adjustments in zinc utilization [95].

Vitamin E 5mg

Vitamin E has received much attention in recent years due to its ability to improve reproductive health. Vitamin E has been reported to exert beneficial effects as an antioxidant against the reproductive disorders. Hence, it is highly recommended for women to consume [96].

Glutathione

Glutathione is the body's major antioxidant which helps in preserving all other antioxidants.. It has been confirmed that it plays an important role in maintaining the biological value of germ cells, and it has been implicated in the fertilization process and early embryo development.



Embryo Development Circle

CoQ10

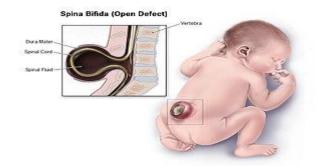
Pretreatment with CoQ10 increases ovarian response to stimulation and improves oocyte and embryo quality in young low prognosis patients with diminished ovarian reserve. There is a possible beneficial effect on clinical pregnancy and live birth rates [97]. The age-related decline in oocyte quality and quantity could be reversed by the administration of CoQ10. And also, mitochondrial and reproductive phenotypes observed in the old females including reduced ATP production and increased meiotic spindle abnormalities, resulting in infertility. Ovarian reserve in the oocyte-specific *Pdss2*-deficient animals was diminished, leading to premature ovarian failure which could be prevented by maternal dietary administration of CoQ10 [98].



B12 in pregnancy

Early detection of a vitamin B12 deficiency before becoming pregnant and prevention of maternal micronutrient deficiencies in the periconceptional period is a possible path to avoid some complications during pregnancy and reduce health problems in the infant.

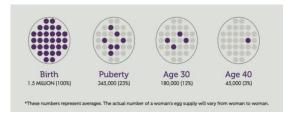
Women with the lowest B12 levels had 5 times the risk of having a child with a neural tube defect compared to women with the highest B12 levels. [99]



B12 levels during pregnancy are associated with increased risk of preterm birth, particularly in B12deficient women. [100]

Astaxanthin

Astaxanthin exhibits free radical scavenging, singlet oxygen quenching, and antioxidant activities which could probably positively affect animal and human health. [101]



DHEA

DHEA supplementation seems to improve the ovarian environment where follicle maturation takes place, and appears to function by acting on the androgen receptors that are expressed on the granulosa cells and ovarian stroma, resulting in increasing antral follicle counts and AMH levels, and therefore ovarian reserve. [102]

Lycopene

Women in the lycopene supplementation group had significantly lesser incidence of growth restricted babies and had a significantly better perinatal outcome compared to women in the placebo group. lycopene supplementation does seem to help in reducing the incidence of intrauterine growth restriction. [103]

Vitamin C

The regular supplementation of ascorbic acid to pregnant women proved to reduce hospitalization rate during pregnancy and provide overall motherto-child health benefit, also to be safe as no patient complained or withdrew from the study due to side effects. Our results indicate the benefit of adding vitamin C in the guidelines of multivitamin supplementation to pregnant women [104]

Selenium

As the interpretation of maternal selenium status is hampered in pregnancy, due to numerous physiological changes, we suggest to use clinical infant outcome in order to establish selenium cut off levels in pregnancy. In a Norwegian population of healthy pregnant women, a low maternal selenium status was associated with a lower psychomotor score at 6 months and an increased risk of infant infection during the first 6 weeks of life.

Dosage: BID

Indications: Preconception, Poor ovarian response, Diminished Ovarian Reserve, Neural tube defects, IUGR, IVF, Embryogenesis.

Contra-Indications

Known contraindications to any ingredients of the supplement. The drug may interact with Anti-Epileptic Drugs. Avoid consumption of Alcohol

Safety

- It is generally well tolerated and has no severe adverse effect.
- It has an excellent safety record in both animal & human investigations.

Side-Effects

Epigastric pain/tenderness, heartburn, diarrhea and nausea vommiting etc.

Special Precautions

Take with or directly after meals to lessen the possibility of gastrointestinal upset.

Storage Conditions

- Store in a cool & dry place below temperature 25°C, protected from light.
- Keep out of reach of children.

Storage Life Is 2 Years

The preparation should not be used after the expiry date.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Agarwal A, Saleh RA. Role of oxidants in male infertility: rationale, significance, and treatment. UrolClin North Am 29, 2002, 817-27.
- [2]. Saleh RA, Agarwal A. Oxidative stress and male infertility: from research bench to clinical practice. J Androl 23, 2002, 737-52.
- [3]. Agarwal A, Saleh RA, Bedaiwy MA. Role of reactive oxygen species in the pathophysiology of human reproduction. Fertil Steril 79, 2003, 829-43.
- [4]. Halliwell B. Tell me about free radicals, doctor: a review. JR Soc Med 82, 1989, 747-52.
- [5]. Sharma RK, Agarwal A. Role of reactive oxygen species in male infertility. Urology 48, 1996, 835-50.
- [6]. Sikka SC. Role of oxidative stress and antioxidants in andrology and assisted reproductive technology. J Androl 25, 2004, 5-18.
- [7]. Gavella M, Lipovac V, Vucic M, Rocic B. Superoxide anionscavenging capacity of human seminal plasma. Int J Androl 19, 1996, 82-90.
- [8]. Jozwik M, Kuczynski W, Szamatowicz M. None nzymaticantioxidant activity of human seminal plasma. FertilSteril 68, 1997, 154-7.
- [9]. Smith R, Vantman D, Ponce J, Escobar J, Lissi E. Totalantioxidant capacity of human seminal plasma. Hum Reprod 11, 1996, 1655-60.
- [10]. Zini A, Garrels K, Phang D. Antioxidant activity in these men of fertile and infertile men. Urology 55, 2000, 922-6.
- [11]. Jones R, Mann T, Sherins R. Peroxidative breakdown of phospholipids in human spermatozoa, spermicidal properties of fatty acid peroxides, and protective action of seminal plasma. Fertil Steril 31, 1979, 531-7.

- [12]. Sun JG, Jurisicova A, Casper RF. Detection of deoxyribonucleic acid fragmentation in human sperm: correlation with fertilization in vitro. Biol Reprod 56, 1997, 602-7.
- [13]. Kodama H, Yamaguchi R, Fukuda J, Kasai H, Tanaka T.Increased oxidative deoxyribonucleic acid damage in thespermatozoa of infertile male patients. FertilSteril 68, 1997, 519-24.
- [14]. Aitken RJ, Baker MA, Sawyer D. Oxidative stress in the male germ line and its role in the a etiology of male infertilityand genetic disease. Reprod Biomed Online 7, 2003, 65-70.
- [15]. Duru N, Morshedi M, Oehninger S. Effects of hydrogen peroxide on DNA and plasma membrane integrity of human spermatozoa. Fertil Steril 74, 2000, 1200 -7.
- [16]. Agarwal A, Said TM. Role of sperm chromatin abnormalities and DNA damage in male infertility. Hum Reprod Update 9, 2003, 331-45.
- [17]. Twigg JP, Irvine DS, Aitken RJ. Oxidative damage to DNA in human spermatozoa does not preclude pronucleus formation at intra cytoplasmic sperm injection. Hum Reprod 13, 1998, 1864-71.
- [18]. Marchetti C, Obert G, Deffosez A, Formstecher P, Marchetti P. Study of mitochondrial membrane potential, reactiveoxygen species, DNA fragmentation and cell viability by flow cytometry in human sperm. Hum Reprod 17, 2002, 1257-65.
- [19]. Sharma RK, Pasqualotto FF, Nelson DR, Thomas AJ, Jr., Agarwal A. The reactive oxygen species-total antioxidantcapacity score is a new measure of oxidative stress to predictmale infertility. Hum Reprod 14, 1999, 2801-7.
- [20]. MacLeod. The role of oxygen in the metabolism and motility of human spermatozoa. Am J Physiol 138, 1943, 512.
- [21]. Aitken J, Fisher H. Reactive oxygen species generation and human spermatozoa: the balance of benefit and risk. Bioessays 16, 1994, 259-67.
- [22]. Gil-Guzman E, Ollero M, Lopez MC, Sharma RK, Alvarez JG, Thomas AJ, Jr., et al. Differential production of reactive oxygen species by subsets of human spermatozoa at different stages of maturation. Hum Reprod 16, 2001, 1922-30.
- [23]. Aitken RJ, Buckingham D, West K, Wu FC, Zikopoulos K, Richardson DW. Differential contribution of leucocytes and spermatozoa to the generation of reactive oxygen species in the ejaculates of oligozoospermic patients and fertile donors. J Reprod Fertil 94, 1992, 451-62.
- [24]. Gavella M, Lipovac V. NADH-dependent oxidoreductase (diaphorase) activity and isozyme pattern of sperm in infertile men. Arch Androl 28, 1992, 135-41.
- [25]. Alvarez JG, Touchstone JC, Blasco L, Storey BT.Spontaneous lipid peroxidation and production of hydrogen peroxide and superoxide in human spermatozoa. Superoxide dismutase as major enzyme protectant against oxygen oxicity. J Androl 8, 1987, 338-48.
- [26]. Shekarriz M, Sharma RK, Thomas AJ, Jr., Agarwal A.Positive myeloperoxidase staining (Endtz test) as anindicator of excessive reactive oxygen species formation insemen. J Assist Reprod Genet 12, 1995, 70-4.
- [27]. Ochsendorf FR. Infections in the male genital tract andreactive oxygen species. Hum Reprod Update 5, 1999, 399-420.
- [28]. Plante M, de Lamirande E, Gagnon C. Reactive oxygen species released by activated neutrophils, but not by deficient spermatozoa, is sufficient to affect normal sperm motility. Fertil Steril 62, 1994, 387-93.
- [29]. Aitken RJ, Gordon E, Harkiss D, Twigg JP, Milne P, Jennings Z, et al. Relative impact of oxidative stress on the functional competence and genomic integrity of human spermatozoa. BiolReprod 59, 1998, 1037-46.
- [30]. Iwasaki A, Gagnon C. Formation of reactive oxygen species n spermatozoa of infertile patients. Fertil Steril 57, 1992, 409-16.
- [31]. Armstrong JS, Rajasekaran M, Chamulitrat W, Gatti P,Hellstrom WJ, Sikka SC. Characterization of reactiveoxygen species induced effects on human spermatozoa movement and energy metabolism. Free RadicBiol Med 26, 1999, 869-80.
- [32]. De Lamirande E, Gagnon C. Reactive oxygen species and human spermatozoa. II. Depletion of adenosine triphosphateplays an important role in the inhibition of sperm motility. J.Androl 13, 1992, 379-86.

- [33]. Pasqualotto FF, Sharma RK, Nelson DR, Thomas AJ,Agarwal A. Relationship between oxidative stress, semencharacteristics, and clinical diagnosis in men under going infertility investigation. FertilSteril 73, 2000, 459-64.
- [34]. Aitken RJ. The Amoroso Lecture. The human spermatozoon--a cell in crisis? J Reprod Fertil 115, 1999, 1-7.
- [35]. Maiorino M, Ursini F. Oxidative stress, spermatogenesis and fertility. Biol Chem 383, 2002, 591-7.
- [36]. Aitken RJ, Irvine DS, Wu FC. Prospective analysis of sperm-oocyte fusion and reactive oxygen species generation as criteria for the diagnosis of infertility. Am J Obstet Gynecol 164, 1991, 542-51.
- [37]. Griveau JF, Le Lannou D. Reactive oxygen species andhuman spermatozoa: physiology and pathology. Int J Androl 20, 1997, 61-9.
- [38]. Sakkas D, Mariethoz E, Manicardi G, Bizzaro D, BianchiPG, Bianchi U. Origin of DNA damage in ejaculated humanspermatozoa. Rev Reprod 4, 1999, 31-7.
- [39]. Loft S, Kold-Jensen T, Hjollund NH, Giwercman A, Gyllemborg J, Ernst E, et al. Oxidative DNA damage inhuman sperm influences time to pregnancy. Hum Reprod 18, 2003, 1265-72.
- [40]. Pasqualotto FF, Sharma RK, Potts JM, Nelson DR, Thomas AJ, Agarwal A. Seminal oxidative stress in patients with chronic prostatitis. Urology 55, 2000, 8815.
- [41]. Potts JM, Sharma R, Pasqualotto F, Nelson D, Hall G, Agarwal A. Association of ureaplasmaurealyticum with abnormal reactive oxygen species levels and absence of leukocytospermia. J Urol 163, 2000, 1775-8.
- [42]. Vicari E. Effectiveness and limits of antimicrobial treatment on seminal leukocyte concentration and related reactiveoxygen species production in patients with male accessory gland infection. Hum Reprod 15, 2000, 2536-44.
- [43]. de Lamirande E, Leduc BE, Iwasaki A, Hassouna M,Gagnon C. Increased reactive oxygen species formation insemen of patients with spinal cord injury. Fertil Steril 63, 1995, 637-42.
- [44]. Padron OF, Brackett NL, Sharma RK, Lynne CM, Thomas AJ, Jr., Agarwal A. Seminal reactive oxygen species and sperm motility and morphology in men with spinal cordinjury. FertilSteril 67, 1997, 1115-20.
- [45]. Naughton CK, Nangia AK, Agarwal A. Pathophysiology ofvaricoceles in male infertility. Hum Reprod Update 7, 2001, 473-81.
- [46]. Allamaneni SSR, Naughton CK, Sharma RK, Thomas AJ,Jr., Agarwal A. Increased seminal reactive oxygen specieslevels in varicocele patients correlate with varicocele grade,not testis size. FertilSteril 2004 (In press).
- [47]. Hendin BN, Kolettis PN, Sharma RK, Thomas AJ, Jr., Agarwal A. Varicocele is associated with elevated spermatozoal reactive oxygen species production and diminished seminal plasma antioxidant capacity. J Urol 161, 1999, 1831-4.
- [48]. Barbieri ER, Hidalgo ME, Venegas A, Smith R, Lissi EA. Varicocele-associated decrease in antioxidant defenses. J Androl 20, 1999, 713-7.
- [49]. Mostafa T, Anis TH, El-Nashar A, Imam H, Othman IA. Varicocelectomy reduces reactive oxygen species levels and increases antioxidant activity of seminal plasma from from with varicocele. Int J Androl 24, 2001, 261-5.
- [50]. Kolettis PN, Sharma RK, Pasqualotto FF, Nelson D, Thomas AJ, Jr., Agarwal A. Effect of seminal oxidativestress on fertility after vasectomy reversal. Fertil Steril 71, 1999, 249-55.
- [51]. Shapiro RH, Muller CH, Chen G, Berger RE. Vasectomyreversal associated with increased reactive oxygen speciesproduction by seminal fluid leukocytes and sperm. J Urol 160, 1998, 1341-6.
- [52]. Saleh RA, Agarwal A, Sharma RK, Nelson DR, Thomas AJ, Jr. Effect of cigarette smoking on levels of seminal oxidativestress in infertile men: a prospective study. FertilSteril 78, 2002, 491-9.
- [53]. Jozwik M, Wolczynski S, Szamatowicz M. Oxidative stress markers in preovulatory follicular fluid in humans. Mol Hum Reprod 5, 1999, 409-13.
- [54]. Attaran M, Pasqualotto E, Falcone T, Goldberg JM, MillerKF, Agarwal A, et al. The effect of follicular fluid reactive oxygen species on the outcome of in vitro fertilization. Int JFertilWomens Med 45, 2000, 314-20.
- [55]. Paszkowski T, Clarke RN, Hornstein MD. Smoking inducesoxidative stress inside the Graafian follicle. Hum Reprod 17, 2002, 921-5.

- [56]. Guerin P, El Mouatassim S, Menezo Y. Oxidative stress and protection against reactive oxygen species in the pre implantation embryo and its surroundings. Hum Reprod Update 7, 2001, 175-89.
- [57]. Bedaiwy MA, Falcone T, Sharma RK, Goldberg JM, Attaran M, Nelson DR, et al. Prediction of end ometriosis with serum and peritoneal fluid markers: a prospective controlled trial. Hum Reprod 17, 2002, 426-31.
- [58]. Riley JC, Behrman HR. Oxygen radicals and reactive oxygen species in reproduction. Proc SocExpBiol Med 198, 1991, 781-91.
- [59]. Sugino N, Karube-Harada A, Taketani T, Sakata A,Nakamura Y. Withdrawal of Ovarian Steroids Stimulates Prostaglandin F2alpha Production Through Nuclear Factor kappa B Activation via Oxygen Radicals in Human Endometrial Stromal Cells: Potential Relevance to Menstruation. J Reprod Dev 50, 2004, 215-25.
- [60]. Paszkowski T, Traub AI, Robinson SY, McMaster D. Selenium dependent glutathione peroxidase activity inhuman follicular fluid. ClinChim Acta 236, 1995, 173-80.
- [61]. Oyawoye O, Abdel Gadir A, Garner A, Constantinovici N, Perrett C, Hardiman P. Antioxidants and reactive oxygenspecies in follicular fluid of women undergoing IVF: relationship to outcome. Hum Reprod 18, 2003, 2270-4.
- [62]. Wang Y, Sharma RK, Falcone T, Goldberg J, Agarwal A. Importance of reactive oxygen species in the peritoneal fluidof women with endometriosis or idiopathic infertility. Fertil Steril 68, 1997, 826-30.
- [63]. Polak G, Koziol-Montewka M, Gogacz M, Blaszkowska I, Kotarski J. Total antioxidant status of peritoneal fluid in infertile women. Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol 94, 2001, 261-3.
- [64]. Bedaiwy MA, Falcone T. Peritoneal fluid environment in endometriosis. Clinico pathological implications. Minerva Ginecol 55, 2003, 333-45.
- [65]. Ota H, Igarashi S, Hatazawa J, Tanaka T. Endothelial nitricoxide synthase in the endometrium during the menstrualcycle in patients with endometriosis and adenomyosis. Fertil Steril 69, 1998, 303-8.
- [66]. Zeller JM, Henig I, Radwanska E, Dmowski WP.Enhancement of human monocyte and peritonealmacrophage chemiluminescence activities in women with end ometriosis. Am J Reprod ImmunolMicrobiol 13, 1987, 78-82.
- [67]. Van Langendonckt A, Casanas-Roux F, Donnez J. Oxidativestress and peritoneal endometriosis. FertilSteril 77, 2002, 861-70.
- [68]. Murphy AA, Santanam N, Parthasarathy S. Endometriosis: adisease of oxidative stress? Semin Reprod Endocrinol 16, 1998, 263-73.
- [69]. Strandell A, Lindhard A. Why does hydrosalpinx reducefertility? The importance of hydrosalpinx fluid. Hum Reprod 17, 2002, 1141-5.
- [70]. Bedaiwy MA, Goldberg JM, Falcone T, Singh M, Nelson D,Azab H, et al. Relationship between oxidative stress and embryotoxicity of hydro salpingeal fluid. Hum Reprod 17, 2002, 601-4.
- [71]. Nasr-Esfahani MH, Winston NJ, Johnson MH. Effects of glucose, glutamine, ethylene diaminetetraacetic acid and oxygen tension on the concentration of reactive oxygen species and on development of the mouse pre implantation embryo in vitro. J Reprod Fertil 96, 1992, 219-31.
- [72]. Goto Y, Noda Y, Mori T, Nakano M. Increased generation of reactive oxygen species in embryos cultured in vitro. FreeRadicBiol Med 15, 1993, 69-75.
- [73]. Yang HW, Hwang KJ, Kwon HC, Kim HS, Choi KW, OhKS. Detection of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and apoptosis in human fragmented embryos. Hum Reprod 13, 1998, 998-1002.
- [74]. Guyader-Joly C, Guerin P, Renard JP, Guillaud J, PonchonS, Menezo Y. Precursors of taurine in female genital tract:effects on developmental capacity of bovine embryoproduced in vitro. Amino Acids 15, 1998, 27-42.
- [75]. Paszkowski T, Clarke RN. The Graafian follicle is a site of L-ascorbate accumulation. J Assist Reprod Genet 16, 1999, 41-5.
- [76]. Bedaiwy MA, Falcone T, Al-Hussaini T, Abdel-Aleem A,Sharma RK, Worley SE, et al. Differential growth of humanembryos in vitro: role of reactive oxygen species. FertilSteril 82, 2004, 593-600

- [77]. Sukcharoen N, Keith J, Irvine DS, Aitken RJ. Predicting the fertilizing potential of human sperm suspensions in vitro: importance of sperm morphology and leukocyte contamination. FertilSteril 63, 1995, 1293-300.
- [78]. Zorn B, Vidmar G, Meden-Vrtovec H. Seminal reactiveoxygen species as predictors of fertilization, embryo quality and pregnancy rates after conventional in vitro fertilization and intracytoplasmic sperm injection. Int J Androl 26, 2003, 279-85.
- [79]. Alvarez JG. Nurture vs nature: how can we optimize spermquality? J Androl 24, 2003, 640-8.
- [80]. Agarwal A, Nallella KP, Allamaneni SSR, Said TM. Role of antioxidants in treatment of male infertility: an overview of the literature. Reprod Biomed Online 8, 2004, 616-27.
- [81]. Suleiman SA, Ali ME, Zaki ZM, el-Malik EM, Nasr MA.Lipid peroxidation and human sperm motility: protectiverole of vitamin E. J Androl 17, 1996, 530-7.
- [82]. Vezina D, Mauffette F, Roberts KD, Bleau G. Selenium vitaminE supplementation in infertile men. Effects on semen parameters and micronutrient levels and distribution. Biol Trace Elem Res 53, 1996, 65-83.
- [83]. Lenzi A, Picardo M, Gandini L, Lombardo F, Terminali O, Passi S, et al. Glutathione treatment of dyspermia: effect on the lipoperoxidation process. Hum Reprod 9, 1994, 2044-50.
- [84]. Comhaire FH, Christophe AB, Zalata AA, Dhooge WS,Mahmoud AM, Depuydt CE. The effects of combinedconventional treatment, oral antioxidants and essential fattyacids on sperm biology in subfertile men. Prostaglandins Leukot Essent Fatty Acids 63, 2000, 159-65.
- [85]. Vicari E, Calogero AE. Effects of treatment with carnitinesin infertile patients with prostato-vesiculoepididymitis. HumReprod 16, 2001, 2338-42.
- [86]. Vicari E, La Vignera S, Calogero AE. Antioxidant treatment with carnitines is effective in infertile patients with pro stat ovesiculoepididymitis and elevated seminal leukocyteconcentrations after treatment with non steroidal anti-inflammatory compounds. Fertil Steril 78, 2002, 1203-8.
- [87]. Lenzi A, Lombardo F, Sgro P, Salacone P, Caponecchia L,Dondero F, et al. Use of carnitine therapy in selected cases of male factor infertility: a double-blind crossover trial. Fertil Steril 79, 2003, 292-300.
- [88]. Lewin A, Lavon H. The effect of coenzyme Q10 on spermmotility and function. Mol Aspects Med 18, 1997, S213-9.
- [89]. Henmi H, Endo T, Kitajima Y, Manase K, Hata H, Kudo R.Effects of ascorbic acid supplementation on serumprogesterone levels in patients with a luteal phase defect.FertilSteril 80, 2003, 459-61.
- [90]. Crha I, Hruba D, Ventruba P, Fiala J, Totusek J, Visnova H. Ascorbic acid and infertility treatment. Cent Eur J Public Health 11, 2003, 63-7.
- [91]. Catt JW, Henman M. Toxic effects of oxygen on human embryo development. Hum Reprod 15(2), 2000, 199-206.
- [92]. Wang X, Falcone T, Attaran M, Goldberg JM, Agarwal A,Sharma RK. Vitamin C and vitamin E supplementation reduce oxidative stress-induced embryo toxicity and improve the blastocyst development rate. FertilSteril 78, 2002, 1272-7.
- [93]. J Clin Biochem Nutr. 2015 Jul; 57(1): 74–81. Published online 2015 Jun 4. doi: 10.3164/jcbn.14-104:PMCID: PMC4512889;PMID: 26236104
- [94]. Basic Clin Pharmacol Toxicol. 2006 Aug; 99(2):146-52. PMID: 16918716 DOI: 10.1111/j.1742-7843.2006.pto_468.x. Department of Gynaecology, Obstetrics and Oncology, Jagiellonian University Medical College, Krakow, Poland. morytlew@cyf-kr.edu.pl.
- [95]. Fertil Steril. 2010 Apr; 93(6):1851-8. doi: 10.1016/j.fertnstert.2008.12.062. Epub 2009 Feb 6. PMID: 19200982 DOI:10.1016/j.fertnstert.2008.12.062.
- [96]. Eur J Clin Nutr. 63(9), 2009, 1098-105. doi: 10.1038/ejcn.2009.36. Epub 2009 Jun 3.PMID: 19491916
 DOI: 10.1038/ejcn. 2009. 36.
- [97]. MedGen UID: 1389561 Concept ID: C1337234Organic Chemical; Pharmacologic Substance
- [98]. Int J Prev Med. 2019; 10: 89. Published online 2019 Jun
 7. doi: 10.4103/ijpvm.IJPVM_2_18.PMCID: PMC6592103;PMID: 31360336
- [99]. Paediatr Perinat Epidemiol. 2012 Jul; 26(0 1): 118–137.doi: 10.1111/j.1365-3016.2012.01289.

- [100]. Antioxidants (Basel). 2018 Feb; 7(2): 22.Published online 2018 Jan
 26. doi: 10.3390/antiox7020022;PMCID: PMC5836012 ; PMID: 29373543
- [101].JBRA Assist Reprod. 22(1), 2018, 61–66.doi: 10.5935/1518-0557.20180003;PMCID: PMC5844662; PMID: 29266896
- [102]. Reprod Biol Endocrinol. 16, 2018, 29. Published online 2018 Mar 27. doi: 10.1186/s12958-018-0343-0;PMCID: PMC5870379; PMID: 29587861
- [103]. Aging Cell. 14(5), 2015, 887–895. Published online 26, 2015
 doi: 10.1111/acel.12368; PMCID: PMC4568976; PMID: 26111777
- [104]. Open Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 2013, 3, 599-602 OJOG http://dx.doi.org/10.4236/ojog.2013.37107 Published Online 2013