The nuchal translucency as a screening test in prenatal diagnosis

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Abstract

Objective: to investigate the relation between NT scan and fetal outcome.

Method:

In this cross-sectional-descriptive study data were gathered from 130 pregnant files. All of the participants were aged between 20 and 34 who referred for prenatal care. At 11 to 14 of weeks of gestation, nuchal translucency (NT) was measured by ultrasound. At 15 to 18 weeks of gestation, quad marker tests were performed. Data management and analysis was performed using SPSS16; cases with p-values of <0.05 were considered significant.

Result:

A total of 106 pregnant with mean age of 26.6 ± 4.44 years were evaluated at the end of study. The frequency of negative screening tests for Down syndrome was 94 (88.7%) and 12 (11.3%) positive test results. Unexpectedly of 12 pregnant women who had positive quad marker test, 2 neonates died after birth due to congenital disease. Of 94 pregnant woman with negative quad marker test, 5 neonate died after birth because of congenital disease.

Conclusion: This study has explained that NT screening and quad marker test cannot accurately predict the status of the fetus in the future.
Key words: nuchal translucency, quad marker, down syndrome.