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Etiological factors for First single early Pregnancy Loss: Are they different from Recurrent Pregnancy Loss?

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Purpose: The recommendations for investigation of pregnancy loss is to test only after 2 or more pregnancy losses. But in practice we find women with single pregnancy loss seeking explanation. The purpose of this study was to determine the identifiable causes and their proportion in women with first early pregnancy loss and to compare with that of women with Recurrent pregnancy loss (RPL).

Methods: This cross-sectional analytical study was undertaken between 2018-2019. Group A included 105 women with first single pregnancy loss and Group B included 105 women with recurrent pregnancy loss. The recommended investigations for etiological factors were done in both groups except karyotyping and thrombophilia screening was done in those with unknown etiology.

Statistical Analysis: Etiological factors were expressed as proportions and comparison between 2 groups was done by unpaired-t test and Mann Whitney test.

Results: Sociodemographic factors and Gestational age were similar in both the groups. Significantly more number of women with first single pregnancy loss (58%) had known etiological factors than women with RPL (43%) ($p=0.038$). Endocrine causes were commonest in both the groups (First pregnancy loss 36% vs RPL 21%; $p=0.023$). Out of the women with unknown causes, 18% women were positive for thrombophilia in each group and more than 50% of them were APLA Positive.

Conclusion: Significant proportion of women with single first pregnancy loss have treatable etiological factors like those of RPL. Hence evaluation should be undertaken to achieve optimum outcome during next pregnancy and prevent RPL.

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