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Comparison of Sperm Morphology Evaluation Using Strict Criteria, Acrosome Reaction Following Ionophore Challenge and Zona-free Hamster Ova Sperm Penetration Assay as Prognostic Factors in Diagnosis of Male Infertility and In Vitro Fertilization

Shin Yong Moon^{1,2}, Buom Yong Ryu², Myung Geol Pang², Sun Kyung Oh^{1,2}, Jae Hoon Lee¹,
Chang Suk Suh^{1,2}, Seok Hyun Kim^{1,2}, Young Min Choi^{1,2}, Jung Gu Kim¹, Jin Yong Lee¹

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, College of Medicine¹, Institute of Reproductive Medicine and Population, Medical Research Center², Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea

Objective: This study was designed to investigate the interrelationship and clinical usefulness of sperm morphology by strict criteria (SM), acrosome reaction following ionophore challenge test (ARIC) and sperm penetration assay (SPA) using zona-free hamster ova as prognostic factors in in vitro fertilization.

Materials and Methods: Semen samples were provided by 83 patients undergoing IVF. We first evaluated the differences between normal fertilization group and poor fertilization group on three andrologic tests. Secondly, we analyzed the relationship between the three andrologic tests and in vitro fertilization on IVF settings. Finally, we evaluated the effectiveness of the three andrologic tests as the prognostic indicators for fertilizing ability.

Results: The fertilization rate of all men in the poor fertilization group was less than 30%; but there was no evidence that this poor fertilization was due to oocyte defects. The results of three andrologic tests were significantly higher in normal fertilization group. Fertilization rate (%) in vitro was highly correlated ($p < 0.001$) with % normal sperm by SM, ARIC value (%), and SPA result. By using Receiver-Operator-Characteristic curve (ROC), we evaluated the effectiveness of these three tests. The sensitivity and specificity of SM, ARIC test and SPA in predicting fertilization potential in IVF setting were 76% and 75%, 84% and 90%, and 76% and 95%, respectively.

Conclusion: Our data suggest that the three andrologic tests can be reliable tools as prognostic factors of sperm fertilizing ability. Among these test, ARIC test and SPA gave more accurate information on fertilizing capacity. ARIC test was shown to have a predictive value for fertilizing

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Tel: (02) 760-2384, Fax: (02) 762-3599, e-mail: shmoon@snu.ac.kr
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ability comparable to that of SPA that appears to be a simple and cost-effective addition to current andrology laboratory. Combined application of these three tests may give more information on predicting sperm fertilizing capacity.

Key Words: Sperm, Strict morphology, ARIC, SPA, IVF

20

가

가

가

human sperm zona-free hamster ova penetration assay (SPA),¹ hypoosmotic swelling test,² hemizona assay,³ acrosin activity,⁴ (semen analysis)

가

(capacitation), (zona pellucida) (acrosome reaction)

(oolemma) (male pronucleus)

가

가

14

21 GnRH

GnRH

7

calcium ionophore (acrosome reaction following ionophore challenge; ARIC)⁸ SPA

1.

1995 1 10

83

(100) 30% 9,10 63 / × , 20

2.

1)

GnRH agonist (GnRH_a; Decapeptyl, D-trp-6-LH, Ferring, Malmö, Sweden)

LH, FSH E₂ 3 8

가

가

21 GnRH_a

GnRH_a 3

LH, E₂, P₄ pg/ml, P₄ <1 ng/ml LH <5 mIU/ml, E₂ 50

3

GnRH_a

3 FSH (Metrodin, Serono, Switzerland) (3)

3 6 FSH 150~300 IU ocular meter
E₂ ×1,000
Kruger 6
6 E₂ 가
(acrosome)가 40~70%
18 mm 16 mm , 가 1/2
가 3 E₂ 가 (cytoplasmic droplet)
10 mm 가 5~6 μm × 2.5~3.5 μm
E₂ 가 300 pg/ml hCG (Profasi, Serono, Switzerland) 10,000 IU
200
hCG 36 ()
4~6)
percoll (swim-up) 3) ARIC
(1) Stock solution
Calcium ionophore A23187 (A23187; Sigma C-7522, USA) 1.0 mg 382 μl dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO; Sigma D-8779, USA) 5 mM/L stock solution eppendorf tube 20 μl -20
20 μl stock solution 4.98 ml
Ham's F-10 가 20 μML
A23187 4.98 ml Ham's F-10
DMSO 20 μl 가
Hoechst 33258 (H33258; Sigma B-2883, USA)
Ham's F-10 1 mg/ml eppendorf tube 20 μl
-20 stock solution
Ham's F-10 1 μg/ml
Fluorescein isothiocyanate conjugated Pisum sativum lectin (FITC-PSA; Sigma L-0770, USA) 1 mg/ml eppendorf tube 100 μl
-20 FITC-PSA (1:9)
100 μg/ml

44~46
2)
(1)
30
10 μl 37
Makler counting chamber (motility index; MI)
11
(kinetics) (motility)
(2) Diff - Quik
10 μl micro-pipette 70%
ethyl alcohol ,
coverslip
Diff-Quik (16920, Japan)
15
가 I 10 가
II 5 가

(2) Ionophore Challenge

SPA ARIC test
 , ARIC test 0.3% Human Serum Albumin
 (HSA; Sigma A-3782, USA) Ham's F-10
 750 \times g 5
 3 ml Ham's F-10 (0.3% HSA)
 750 \times g 10 2
 (sperm pellet)
 Ham's F-10 (1.0% HAS)
 1
 2 37 5% CO₂ 가
 20 ?M/L A23187 (10
 ?M/L) DMSO 30 37
 5% CO₂

(3)

H33258
 가 7
 1.5 ml phosphate
 buffered saline (PBS) 4 ml 2% polyvy-
 nylpyrrolidone (Sigma P-0930, USA) column
 750 \times g 5
 Ham's F-10
 가 20 \times 10⁶/ml 20 ?1
 95% ethanol 5
 , FITC-PSA (100 ?g/ml)
 100 ?1 4 moist chamber 15
 propyl gallate mountant
 mercury burner epi-illumination module
 Olympus \times 1000
 H33258
 filter cube U , FITC-PSA
 filter cube B
 200
 H33258
 가 ,

가 (equatorial seg-
 ment) 가 가
 , (zona pellucida)
 (oolemma) 가 (inner acro-
 somal membrane)
 1
 A23187 (%)
 A23187
 ARIC value A23187 (indu-
 ced acrosome reaction rates)
 (spontaneous acrosome reaction rates)
 counting
 가 A23187
 ARIC
 (negative) ARIC value "0"
 가 .⁸
 4) SPA
 SPA 12,13 10
 (1)
 N-tris (hydroxymethyl) methyl-2-ami-
 noethane sulfonic acid (TES) 211 mM, hydroxymethyl
 amino methane (Tris) 96 mM, dextrose 11 mM, 1% pe-
 nicillin-streptomycin 20%
 가 pH 7.4, 290~320 mOsm/kg
 TEST-yolk buffer (TYB) 1 : 1
 4
 42
 4
 TYB 37 Ham's F-10 (0.3% HSA)
 3 ml 가 750 \times g 5
 HSA) 1 ml 가 750 \times g 5 2
 Ham's F-10 (1.0% HSA) 가 2
 37 , 5% CO₂
 (2)
 12~16

12

1 P-MSG (Sigma G-4877, USA) 35 IU

3, hCG (Sigma C-1063, USA) 35 IU

hCG 15~16 (cervical dislocation)

PBS (0.3% HSA)가 (cumulus complex)가 0.1% hyaluronidase

PBS (0.3% HSA) 0.1% trypsin PBS (0.3% HSA)

(3) 2 가 1×10^6 /ml 37 5% CO₂ 10 0.3% HSA Ham's F-10 3.5

(4) 3 (5~10 ?l) Coverslip va-seline-paraffin 가 coverslip (methanol: glacial acetic acid= 3:1) 24 0.25% acetic lacmoid $\times 1,000$ 가 가 가 (penetration rate; PR; /) (penetration index; PI;)

3. , ARIC SPA

Receiver-Operator-Characteristic (ROC) curve . ROC curve

PI ARIC (sensitivity) (false positive=1-specificity) 가

(cut-off)

4. student t-test, multiple regression analysis , ROC curve epistat . $p < 0.05$

1. 63 2.5 \pm 1.0 ml , 108.7 \pm 69.2 \times 10⁶/ml . 69.4 \pm 17.1% (MI) 46.1 \pm 18.7

20 2.9 \pm 1.2 ml , 105.0 \pm 77.1 \times 10⁶/ml . 47.5 \pm 24.3% (MI) 30.9 \pm 23.4

($p < 0.01$) (Table 1).

2. 15.7 \pm 8.4% , 7.5 \pm 5.3% ($p < 0.01$) (Table 2).

Table 1. Results of semem analysis for normal and abnormal fertilization groups in IVF

Semen parameter	Normal	Abnormal	Significance
No.	63	20	
Seminal volume (ml)	2.5 ±1.0 (0.8~3.5)	2.9 ±1.2 (1.0~6.0)	NS
Concentration (×10 ⁶ /ml)	108.7 ±69.2 (15.0~300.0)	105.0 ±77.1 (10.0~300.0)	NS
Motility (%)	69.4 ±17.1 (20.0~90.0)	47.5 ±24.3 (10.0~90.0)	p=0.0015
Kinetic	2.8 ±0.4 (1.0~4.0)	2.4 ±0.5 (1.0~4.0)	p=0.0153
Motility index	46.1 ±18.7 (7.5~80.0)	30.9 ±23.4 (5.0~80.0)	p=0.0038

Mean ±SD (Range), NS: Not significant

Table 2. Results of strict sperm morphology for normal and abnormal fertilization groups in IVF

	Normal	Abnormal	Significance
% Normal sperm morphologic features	15.7 ±8.4 (2.0~40.0)	7.5 ±5.3 (0.0~19.0)	p=0.0001

Mean ±SD (Range)

Table 3. Results of spontaneous and induced acrosome reactions and ARIC value for normal and abnormal fertilization groups in IVF

Acrosomal factor measured (%)	Normal	Abnormal	Significance
Spontaneous reaction	9.1 ±6.2 (2.0~25.0)	7.4 ±5.3 (1.0~24.0)	NS
Induced reaction	21.8 ±9.0 (2.0~39.0)	11.1 ±7.2 (1.8~30.0)	p=0.0001
Difference: ARIC value	12.7 ±6.1 (1.8~32.0)	3.9 ±3.9 (-3.0*~15.0)	p=0.00001

Mean ±SD (Range), NS: Not significant, * More reaction was observed in control suspension than in ionophore-challenged suspensions, the ARIC is taken as zero (not negative).

3. ARIC

4. SPA

ARIC	DMSO	SPA	PR
	9.1 ±6.2%	92.7 ±20.2%	(PI)
, A23187	21.8	5.0 ±3.2%	.
±9.0%		SPA	PR 47.9 ±33.7%
	ARIC value	, PI	0.7 ±0.9%
12.7 ±6.1%		PR	PI
ARIC			(p<0.01) (Table 4).
7.4 ±5.3%	,	5.	, ARIC SPA
11.1 ±7.2%	ARIC value		
3.9 ±3.9%			

가 , AR- cut-off 10.0%
IC value (p< (sensitivity) 76.2% ,
0.01) (Table 3). (specificity) 75% .

Table 4. Results of SPA for normal and abnormal fertilization groups in IVF

SPA	Normal	Abnormal	Significance
Penetration rate ^a	92.7 ±20.2 (0.0~ 100.0)	47.9 ±33.7 (0.0~ 100.0)	p=0.00001
Penetration index ^b	5.0 ±3.2 (0.0~ 13.7)	0.7 ±0.9 (0.0~3.1)	p=0.00001

Mean ±SD (Range), ^a Ova penetrated/ova inseminated (%), ^b Sperm penetrated/ova inseminated

Table 5. Correlation matrix among the fertilization rates, normal sperm morphology, ARIC value and penetration index in SPA for overall patient population (n=83)

	FR	SM	AV	PI
FR	1.00			
SM	0.45***	1.00		
AV	0.54***	0.47***	1.00	
PI	0.43***	0.53***	0.54***	1.00

*** p<0.0001, FR: Fertilization rates (%) in IVF, SM: Normal sperm morphologic feature (%), AV: ARIC value (%), PI : Penetration Index

ARIC cut-off 8.5% 84.1% 90% SPA Kruger 6
cut-off 3.0 76.2%
95%

Table 5 (p<0.01)가 Kruger 16 14% 가

ARIC (r=0.54), 가 ARIC SPA 가 4%

가 10~15% 14 cut-off Hargreave 17 Kruger 6 가 14%
50~80% 가 가 4% 7~8%
Ombelet 18 9%
cut-off off 10% cut-

가

가

가

(false negative)

(false positive)

가
SPA

1-5
(capacitation),
(decondensation)

8,28

가
SPA

가

7

가

5,8

ARIC

SPA

(zona pellucida)

19,20

21

progesterone,²²

가

(r=0.54)가

ARIC

cAMP analogues,²³ calcium ionophore A23187²⁴

ARIC

가

가

83

, ARIC value

at-

5,8,25

ARIC
(spontaneous

off

(n=63)

3

가

reaction)

cut-off

가

(posi-

가

tive predictive value=95.2%),

(n=20)

value

ARIC

가

cut-off

(negative predictive value=100%).

가

Tesarik²⁶

Calvo²⁷

가

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