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Adenosine Deaminase in Pregnancy Serum, *Jerónimo Jaqueti, David Martinez-Hernández, Rosario Hernández-Garcia, Fernando Navarro-Gallar* (Lab. Central, Hosp. del Aire, C/Arturo Soria, 82, 28027 Madrid, Spain), *and Joaquin Arenas-Barbero* (Servicio de Bioquim., CSSS "12 de Octubre," Madrid, Spain)

Pregnancy has been associated with depressed cell-mediated immunity (*1*). Adenosine deaminase (ADA; EC 3.5.4.4), an enzyme essential for differentiation of lymphoid cells, has been used for monitoring several diseases in which immunity is altered (*2, 3*).

We measured catalytic concentrations of ADA in serum from a control group of women (n = 22; ages 20–45 years) and from pregnant women (n = 84; ages 20–39 years) as described elsewhere (*4*). Fasting blood samples were obtained by venipuncture. At the time of blood collection, none of the women were taking any drugs. All variables were controlled according to IFCC recommendations (*5*). In all cases, the enzyme activities in serum exhibited a gaussian distribution.

Concentrations of serum ADA differed significantly (P = 0.00014) between the groups but not between each trimester of pregnancy (Table 1).

Table 1. Concentrations of ADA in Serum of Controls and Pregnant Women

Groups	n	Mean (SD) ADA, U/L
Controls	22	10.3 (3.3)
Pregnancy	84	7.8 (2.6)[a]
1st trimester	46	7.8 (2.7)[b]
2nd trimester	23	7.8 (2.5)
3rd trimester	15	7.7 (2.5)

[a] Significantly different from control group values (P = 0.00014). [b] Not significantly different from the 2nd trimester (P = 0.93017) or 3rd trimester (P = 0.92357).

We conclude that ADA concentrations in serum might be a marker of depressed cell-mediated immunity in pregnancy.

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