

19. PATHOGENS IN SEMEN WITH ABNORMAL PARAMETERS

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Introduction:

Spermatozoa are considered a living biological entity. Its environment has a profound effect on important sperm parameters. The presence of bacteria in the seminal fluid could be expected to influence the number, activity and morphology of the spermatozoa.

Objectives:

1. To identify common pathogens in seminal fluid with altered seminal parameters.
2. To evaluate the effect of pathogens on commonly used semen parameters.

Methodology:

A descriptive observational study was conducted at a tertiary care infertility centre in Sri Lanka. A total of 197 subjects with reduced motility and altered morphology were included for bacteriological assessment by seminal culture.

Results:

Positive bacterial cultures were obtained in 78% (n=148) and of these only 43% (n=64) had pus cells.

Staphylococcus aureus and Streptococcus faecalis were the

commonest organisms present and reduced motility was observed in 44% (16/36) and 60% (45/75) respectively. Reduced motility was also present in cases with Coliforms 100% (6/6), Escherichia coli 63% (7/11), Beta Haemolytic streptococci 58% (4/7) and Klebsiella species 54% (6/11). Morphological abnormalities were associated with coliforms 50% (3/6), E coli 36% (4/11) Pseudomonas 40% (2/5).

Conclusion:

Absence of pus cells (WBC) in the semen does not guarantee the absence of infection as silent sub clinical infection could present affecting sperm activity and morphology.

Recommendation:

Bacteriological evaluation of the semen would be of use in the evaluation of the sub fertile male with abnormal sperm parameters.