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JOURNAL ARTICLE

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Correlation between the rate of lipid peroxidation and cellular maturity as measured by creatine kinase activity in human spermatozoa

G. Huszar and L. Vigue Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut 06510-0863.

We have demonstrated previously that creatine kinase (CK) activity is a measure of cellular maturity and fertilizing potential in human spermatozoa. In the present work we have examined whether there is a relationship between sperm CK activity and the rate of lipid peroxidation (LP) as measured by malondialdehyde (MDA) formation. Both

MDA production and CK activity were higher in oligospermic than in normospermic specimens (P < 0.001, N = 41 and 101, respectively), and there was a close correlation (R = 0.43, P < 0.001) between these two biochemical parameters. As demonstrated previously with the CK measurements, there was a heterogeneity among the groups: About 40% of the oligospermic men had MDA and CK activity values similar to that of the normospermic group, and 12% of the normospermic men had MDA and CK activity values similar to that of the oligospermic group. We have also examined in three experimental paradigms the question of sperm-to-sperm propagation of increased LP and the possible increase in LP following centrifugation as used in sperm preparation for assisted reproduction: The MDA differences among Percoll sperm fractions originating within the same specimens, the lack of change in MDA production after co-centrifugation of the same specimens without an increase in MDA production all indicated the lack of sperm-to-sperm propagation of LP or increase in LP due to mechanical stress. (ABSTRACT TRUNCATED AT 250 WORDS)

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