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It has been seen in various epidemiological studies that in hypertension there occurs hypercholesterolaemia. It is to be studied whether or not there is correlation between pre-eclamptic and eclamptic toxaemia - pregnancy induced hypertension state, and hypercholesterolaemia?

Pregnancy is a physiological state when significant circulatory changes and changes pertaining to metabolic process occur which have an effect on blood pressure. These changes are due to presence of placental hormones. In toxaemia of pregnancy which is manifested by several features (e.g. hypertension and affected renal function) metabolic changes are exaggerated (Lall & Sinha, 1983).

As the pregnancy advances, the concentration of many steroids increases. Since cholesterol is the source of most of the steroids found in increased amount in circulation of normal pregnant women, the cholesterol level continues to rise till term. Several investigators have observed increased serum cholesterol during pregnancy which progresses towards
term and decreases after delivery (Boyd, 1934; Dieckmann and Wegner, 1934; Boyd and Kingston, 1936; Schwars et al., 1940; Peters et al., 1951; Russ et al., 1954; Oliver and Boyd, 1955; Von Studnitz, 1955; Watson, 1955; Jacinga et al., 1961).

According to Watson (1957), the level of total serum cholesterol increased progressively from the twentyninth week of gestation and it remained elevated through parturition and early puerperium.

Ghosh in 1953 reported that the value of total cholesterol rises significantly in pre-eclamptic patients. Scandrett (1959), studied that there was not much change in the cholesterol levels in severe pre-eclamptic and in the normal gravida. Brat Vold and De Alvorens (1961), noted some increase of serum cholesterol in pre-eclampsia as compared with values in normal pregnancy. The difference, however, was not thought to be significant. On the contrary, Arsova and Kretowics (1963), reported that such difference was statistically significant.

The serum cholesterol level falls gradually in the post partum period in normal and toxemia of pregnancy. However, in toxemiac cases such levels in the post partum period do not return to normal
level as quickly as it does in the cases of normal pregnancy (Lall & Sinha, 1983).

Herrmann and Neumann (1912), observed that the blood cholesterol and total lipids decreased during normal lactation but remained elevated when lactation did not occur. Granizer (1950), studied that there is a decrease in the plasma cholesterol after delivery. The possibility is presented that this decrease in cholesterol reflects the adrenocorticotropic (ACTH) activity in post partum plasma.

In view of the above it is desirable to study the level of serum cholesterol during pregnancy and puerperium in normal cases vis-a-vis those associated with toxaemia in order to find out whether there is any correlation between the level of serum cholesterol and degree of toxaemia. We further wish to observe if there is any change in cholesterol level after the withdrawal of placental hormones in post partum period and after puerperium.

No doubt in the developed countries, exhaustive studies have been undertaken in this regard, very little work has been done in the developing country like India. To say the least, no work has been done in Bundelkhand region. It is evident that there is colossal difference in socio-economic status.
literacy level and food habits of people living in the developed countries and those in the developing countries. As these factors are of paramount importance and have a great bearing on the subject, it is felt that the results observed in the developed countries may not be applicable to the populace in the countries like ours. It is, therefore, necessary to undertake such study keeping in view the above factors.