



Factor VIII levels in the early postpartum period



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OBJECTIVE

Pregnancy is accompanied by changes in the coagulation and fibrinolytic systems. There is a marked increase in some of the coagulation factors, particularly fibrinogen and factor VIII. A high plasma levels of coagulation factor VIII is an important risk factor for thrombotic complications during pregnancy and puerperium. The aim of the study was to determine changes of the VIII:C in the early postpartum period. (Kyrle P. et al. N Engl J Med 2000; 343: 457-462)

DESIGN

A longitudinal prospective study of 189 healthy women. Primi or multigravidas whose previous pregnancies had been uncomplicated, aged 18-41 years. All of the deliveries were spontaneous and vaginal. First samples were taken between 24-72 hours postpartum. Women whose factor VIII plasma levels were higher

than 160 (percentage of standard) were tested again after 6 weeks. Factor VIII:C was investigated by the one-step coagulation method.

RESULTS

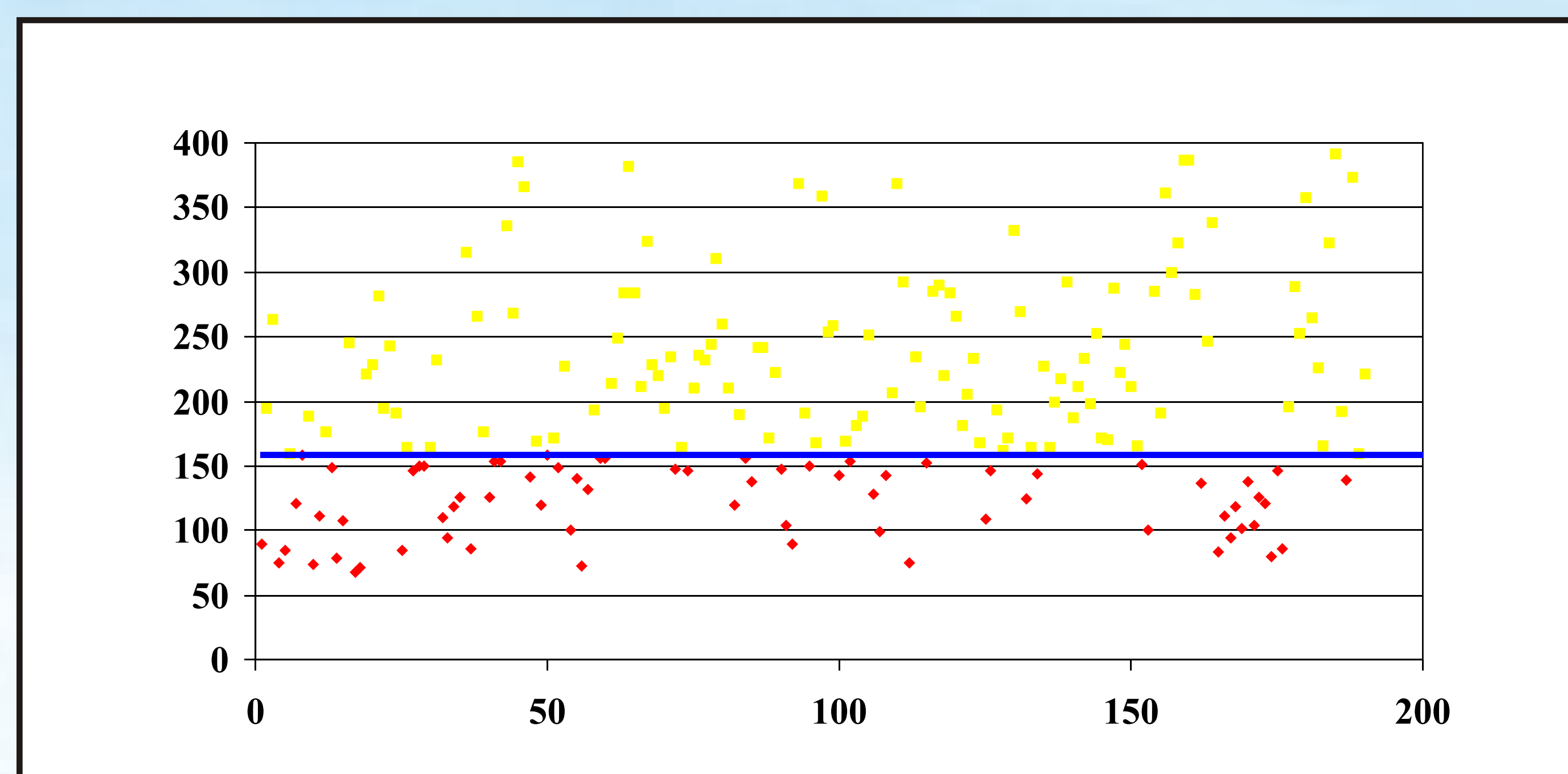
Pregnancy is associated with increased levels of VIII:C. Mean 197,5 percentage of standards, (95% ranges 72-389). 119 (63%) of the tested women had VIII:C higher than 160%. The post-puerperal test showed similar values to those from formerly published data in age-matched non-pregnant group. Mean 70% (95% range 70-218)

CONCLUSION

Normal pregnancy and puerperium is connected with increased levels of factor VIII. However elevated plasma levels of VIII:C is not associated with poor pregnancy outcome.

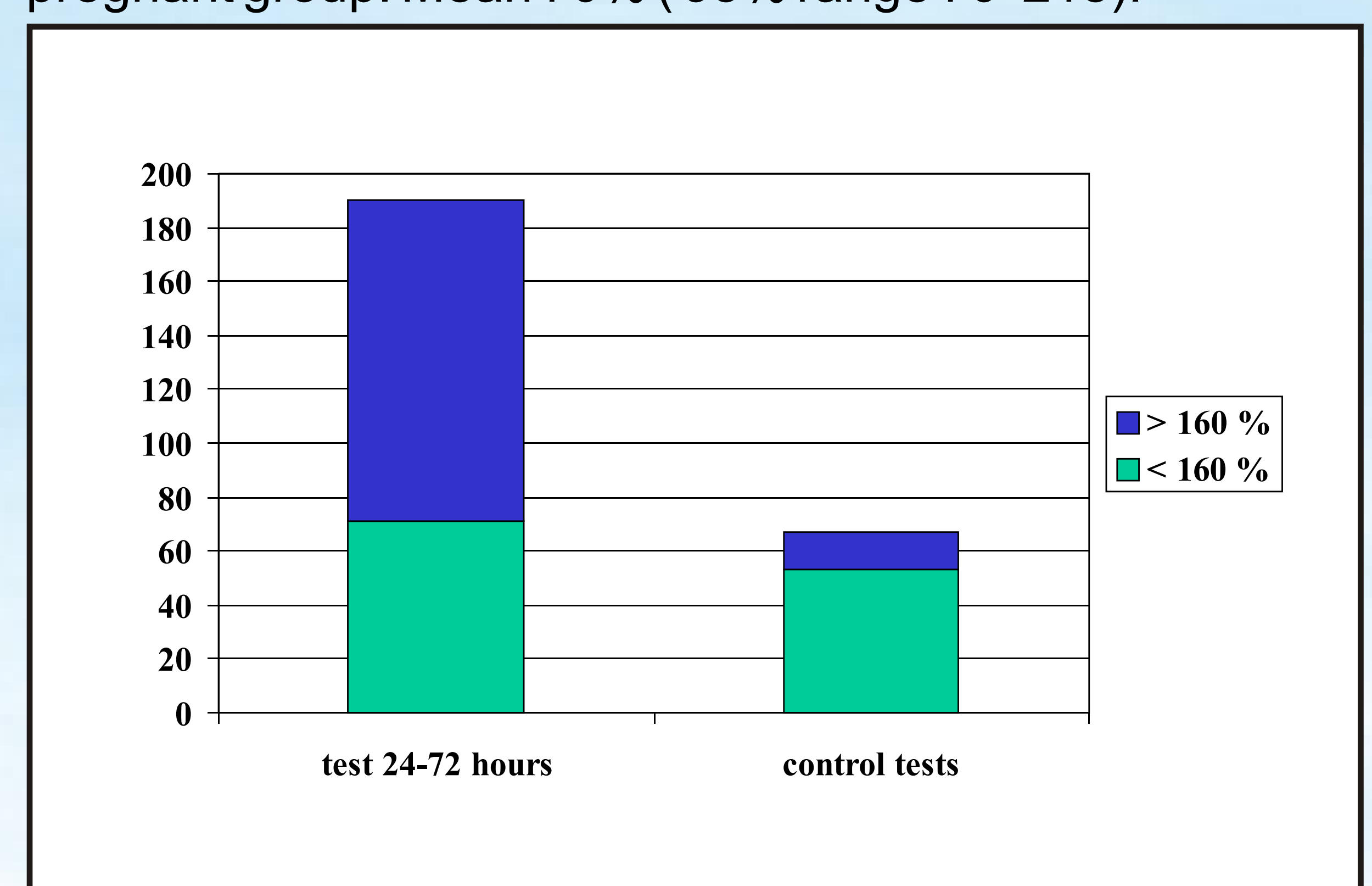
The levels of factor VIII in the early postpartum period

Mean 197,5 percentage of standards, (95% ranges 72-389).
119 (63%) of the tested women had VIII:C higher than 160%.



Repeated blood tests 6 weeks after delivery were performed in 67 women

The post-puerperal tests showed similar values to those from formerly published data in age-matched non-pregnant group. Mean 70% (95% range 70-218).



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