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Obstetrics

ABORTION AND COAGULATION FACTORS Coagulation studies were carried out in 40 patients undergoing induced abortion by intra-amniotic injection of hypertonic saline solution. Other reports have indicated that severe defibrination syndromes can occur with this method of abortion. Findings of the study included: 1) no significant change in prothrombin time, partial thromboplastin time, or fibrinogen level; 2) a lowered platelet count, as well as profibrinolysin and fibrinolytic inhibitor levels; 3) the appearance of soluble fibrin monomers in plasma; 4) a decrease in factor VIII. The association of decreased platelet count, decreased factor VIII and evidence of soluble fibrin monomers suggests that early incomplete activation of the coagulation system was taking place. In addition, the reduced profibrinolysin and fibrinolytic inhibitor levels indicated slight activation of the fibrinolytic system. Despite these changes, no sign of thrombosis or hemorrhage was evident in any patient studied. One patient, not included in the study, has since developed disseminated intravascular coagulation. The authors note that problems may develop in the rare patient with pre-existing coagulation defects, fibrinolytic defects, or thrombocytopenia. (Broun, F. D., Davidson, E. C., Jr., and Phillips L. L.: *Coagulation Change after Hypertonic Saline Infusion for Late Abortions*. *Obstet. Gynecol.* 39: 538-543, 1972.)