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Differences in levelFms-Like Tyrosine Kinase-1 (sFlt-1), soluble Endoglin (s-Eng), and Placental Growth Factor (PlGF) between Early Onset Preeclampsia and Late Onset Preeclampsia

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ABSTRACT

Early Onset Preeclampsia (EO-PE) is preeclampsia that develops before 34 weeks' gestation, caused by intrinsic factors, while Late Onset Preeclampsia (LO-PE) is preeclampsia that develops after 34 weeks' gestation due to extrinsic and maternal factors. There is an increased production of antiangiogenic factors (sFlt-1, s-Eng and PlGF) contribute to pathophysiology of preeclampsia. This study aims to measure the difference of sFlt-1, sEng, PlGF levels between EO-PE and LO-PE. This was an observational study with cross sectional design conducted at Dr. M. Djamil, TK Hospital. III dr. Reksodiwiryono and Biomedical Laboratory FK Unand Padang from August 2017 to August 2018. The sample of this study were 26 severe preeclampsia women : 13 (EO-PE) and 13 (LO-PE), selected using consecutive sampling. Levels of sFlt-1, sEng, PlGF were examined using the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) method. Statistical analysis was performed using unpaired t test and Mann-Whitney Test. Results shown that serum levels of sFlt-1 and sEng in (EO-PE) were 9.51 ± 0.71 ng / L, 1.44 ± 0.06 ng / mL, 5.79 ± 0.42 ng / mL while in PEAL it was $8,89 \pm 0.78$ ng / mL, 1.35 ± 0.14 ng / mL,

6.72 ± 0.76. There were a significant difference with a value of $p < 0.05$. The conclusion of this study is that the levels of sFlt-1 and sEng are higher in (EO-PE) than (LO-PE) and PIGF levels was lower in (EO-PE) compared to (LO-PE).

I. INTRODUCTION

Preeclampsia is a life-threatening disease and can occur in any pregnant women. Preeclampsia can be divided into two types based on gestational age ie early onset preeclampsia (EO-PE) and late onset preeclampsia (LO-PE). EO-PE is preeclampsia that develops before 34 weeks' gestation and is strongly associated with trophoblast invasion and failure of spiral arterial remodeling whereas LO-PE is preeclampsia that develops at or after 34 weeks' gestation and is caused by an increased vulnerability of the maternal blood vessels to inflammation in a normal pregnancy or atherosclerosis in a placenta that initially develops normally (Raymond and Peterson, 2011; Costae *et al.*, 2011). The increased production of antiangiogenic factors: receptor tyrosine kinase dissolved fms-1 (sFlt-1) and dissolved endoglin (s-Eng), and decreased circulating levels of free vascular endothelial growth factors contribute to the pathophysiology of PE (Cheng, He & Fu, 2016).

In developed countries, Preeclampsia (PE) is the biggest cause of maternal and fetal morbidity and mortality, estimated to reach 50,000-60,000 maternal deaths annually. According to WHO (2016), almost all (99%) cases of maternal deaths occur in developing countries. The maternal mortality rate in Indonesia is much higher when compared to countries in Southeast Asia (Wibowo *et al.*, 2016).

Looking at the results of the 2015 Intercensal Population Survey (SUPAS), the

maternal mortality rate reached 305 / 100,000 live births. In Padang City the maternal mortality rate in 2016 was 120 per 100,000 live births. Both of the data above show an improvement in maternal mortality rate, but are still far from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target, especially referring to the target set by the current SDGs, which is 70 / 100,000 live births. Judging from the causes of maternal mortality which are very variable, maternal mortality cause in Indonesia is still dominated by bleeding (30%), hypertension in pregnancy (25%), and infection (12%). In West Sumatra the maternal mortality rate which is caused by hypertension, preeclampsia and eclampsia reaches 44.8%. Data from the Health Office of the Padang city, the maternal mortality rate during childbirth tends to increase annually until 2016, with total 16 people in 2014, 17 people in 2015 and 20 people in 2016. While at the Government Hospital Dr. M. Djamil Padang, the incidence of severe preeclampsia / eclampsia continued to increase, from as high as 20.14% in 2014, become 32.5% in 2015, become 33% in 2016 and the latest data in 2017 (January-June data), 223 cases of severe preeclampsia was found (Medical Record Dr. M. Djamil Hospital Padang, 2017).

Preeclampsia is known as "The Disease of Theories". A lot of theory about the etiology of Preeclampsia is explained, but the exact cause is still unknown. Evidence shows that main pathophysiology of preeclampsia is the imbalance between the

role of angiogenic factors and antiangiogenic factors. sFlt-1 is a flt-1 receptor variant for placental growth factors, and vascular endothelial growth factor, an antiangiogenic protein and produced by the placenta which can cause systemic endothelial dysfunction (Lok et al., 2008). Soluble endoglin (sEng) is also an antiangiogenic protein identified from the placenta which inhibits TGF- β 1 signaling in blood vessels and induces vascular permeability, while PIGF is a proangiogenic factor which is also produced by the placenta, which has weak mitogenic activity and affects vascular permeability, but also has potential role for VEGF action on endothelial cells and vascular permeability (Powe et al., 2011). Conclusions from several studies on antiangiogenic and angiogenic biomarkers by Villa, et al. (2013) and RahmiLaila, et al. (2016) regarding sFlt-1, is that serum levels of sFlt-1 in early onset PE are higher than late onset PE. The results of the study by Akbar, et al., (2017) found that soluble endoglin (sEng) serum levels were significantly higher in early onset PE compared to late onset PE (47.65 ± 40.17 vs 13.46 ± 9.48), while the mean serum PIGF in the early onset PE group (53.03 ± 38.07 pg / mL) was lower than late onset PE (241.80 ± 192.83 pg / mL) with $p < 0.0001$ (Ekapatria, et al., 2012).

The development of PE detection and prediction seems to be more directed to the sFlt-1, sEng and PIGF molecule and the examination of angiogenic (sFlt-1, sEng) and antiangiogenic (PIGF) factors in maternal plasma or serum has been proposed as a parameter that has better and more accurate predictive strength that can help identifying women who has potential developing preeclampsia (Andalas, et al., 2010 ; Sanchez-Aranguren et al., 2014; Phipps et al., 2016; Salan, 2017)

There are still few researches on angiogenic biomarkers which assess the three factors (sFlt-1, sEng and PIGF) which are said to contribute to the pathophysiology of Preeclampsia, so the authors are interested in knowing and conducting research on differences of sFlt-1, s-Eng, PIGF levels in early onset and late onset PE.

II. METHODS

This was observational study using cross sectional design. The study was conducted at Dr.M. Djamil Padang, TK Hospital. III Dr. Reksodiwiryo Padang from August 2017 to August 2018. Examination of serum levels of sFlt-1, sEng, PIGF in early onset preeclampsia and late onset preeclampsia at the Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Faculty of Medicine, Andalas University, Padang. The population in this study were all pregnant women with pregnancy ≥ 20 -42 weeks, with a diagnosis of severe preeclampsia. The sample in this study was part of the population that met the inclusion and exclusion criteria of the study, which included the inclusion criteria for pregnant women with gestational age ≥ 20 -42 weeks diagnosed with severe preeclampsia based on clinical symptoms and laboratory results and willing to be respondents in the study. Exclusion criteria are pregnant women with fetal death in the womb. Based on the calculation of the sample size from the 3 variables, the largest number of samples was taken, totaling 13 people, grouped divided into 13 people with early onset preeclampsia (EO-PE) and 13 people with late onset preeclampsia (LO-PE), so that the total sample size in this study was 26 people taken using consecutive sampling technique. Examination of serum levels of sFlt-1, sEng, PIGF was carried out by taking 3 cubic media vein as much as 3 cc

using 3 ml syringe then centrifuging to obtain ± 100 micro serum and then examining sFlt-1, sEng, PIGF levels using ELISA method . The levels of sFlt-1 and PIGF levels were analyzed by unpaired t test,

the level of analysis using the Mann Whitney Test.

III. RESULTS

Characteristics of study subjects and results can be seen in the table below:

Table 1. Characteristics of Study Subjects

Characteristics	Grouping			
	Early Onset Preeclampsia		Late Onset Preeclampsia	
	n = 13		n = 13	
	Median	Min-Max	Median	Min-Max
Age (years) Mean \pm SD	30.08 \pm 5.78		31.69 \pm 6.23	
Pregnancy Age (Weeks)	30.92 \pm 1.70		38.62 \pm 2.63	
Parity (Person)	2	1-4	3	1-6
BP Systolic (mmHg)	180	150-235	162	160-200
BP Diastolic (mmHg)	120	100 -160	110	100-140
History of preeclampsia	f	%	f	%
There is a history of	4	30.77	2	15.38
no history	9	69.23	11	84.62
Hypertension	f	%	f	%
There is a history of	5	38.46	3	23.08
no history	8	61.54	10	76.92

Based on table 1. it can be concluded that the mean age of LO-PE (31.69 \pm 6.23 years) is higher than the mean age of EO-PE (30.08 \pm 5.78 years). Mean gestational age at LO-PE (38.62 \pm 2.62 weeks) while mean gestational age at EO-PE (30.92 \pm 1.70 weeks). The parity of preeclampsia is

more likely in LO-PE. Median value for systolic and diastolic BP is high on EO-PE compared to LO-PE. History of preeclampsia and hypertension history is more likely in EO-PE than LO-PE. The results of the three variables can be seen in the table below :

Table 2. Distribution of levels of soluble Fms-Like Tyrosine Kinase-1 (sFlt-1) between EO-PE and LO-PE

Group	Level Soluble Fms-Like Tyrosine Kinase-1 (sFlt-1) (ng / mL)	
	n	Mean \pm SD
Early onset preeclampsia (EO-PE)	13	9.51 \pm 0.71
Late onset preeclampsia (LO-PE)	13	8.89 \pm 0.78

In table 2. It can be seen that the distribution of levels Fms-like soluble Tyrosine kinase-1 (sFlt-1)

in EO-PE is 9.51 \pm 0.71 ng / mL higher than LO-PE 8.89 \pm 0.78 ng / mL.

Table 3. Distribution of levels Endoglin soluble (sEng) between EO-PE and LO-PE

Group	soluble (sEng) (ng / mL)	
	n	Median Min-Max
Early onset preeclampsia (EO-PE)	13	28.31 20.8 - 35.06
Late onset preeclampsia (LO-PE)	13	26.85 9.98-28.58

In table 3. it can be seen that the distribution of levels Endoglin soluble (sEng) in EO-PE that is 28.31 (20.8-35) ng / mL higher than LO-PE 26.85 (9.98-28.58) ng / mL.

Table 4. Distribution of Placental Growth Factor (PIGF) levels between EO-PE and LO-PE in

Group	Placental Growth Factor (PIGF) (ng / mL)	
	n	Mean \pm SD
Early onset preeclampsia (EO-PE)	13	5.79 \pm 0.42
Late onset preeclampsia (LO-PE)	13	6.72 \pm 0.76

In table 4. it can be seen that the distribution of Placental Growth Factor (PIGF) levels in EO-PE is 5.79 \pm 0.42 ng / mL lower than LO-PE 6.72 \pm 0.76 ng / mL.

Table 5. Differences in levels of soluble Fms-Like Tyrosine Kinase-1 (sFlt-1), soluble Endoglin (sEng), Placental Growth Factor (PIGF)

Variable	Early Onset Preeclampsia		Late onset preeclampsia		P
	Mean \pm SD	Median (Min-Max)	Mean \pm SD	Median (Min-Max)	
sFlt-1 (ng/ mL)	9.51 \pm 0.71		8.89 \pm 0.78		0.045
sEng (ng / mL)		28, 31 (20,8-35,06)		26,85 (9,98-28,58)	0,048
PIGF (ng/ mL)	5.79 \pm 0.42		6.72 \pm 0.76		0.001

In table 5. Levels of sFlt -1 and sEng higher in EO-PE compared to LO-PE, PIGF levels in EO-PE are lower than LO-PE. The results of statistical tests also showed that there were significant differences, $p < 0.05$.

IV. DISCUSSION

Differences exist between soluble levels of Fms-Like Tyrosine Kinase-1 (sFlt-1), soluble Endoglin (sEng) and Placental Growth Factor (PIGF) between Early Onset Preeclampsia (EO-PE) and Slow Onset Preeclampsia (LO-PE).

Based on the results of the study, it was found that the soluble Fms-Like Tyrosine Kinase-1 (sFlt-1) and soluble Endoglin (sEng) was higher in EO-PE (9.51 \pm 0.71 ng / mL, 28.31 ng / mL) compared with in LO-PE (8.89 \pm 0.78 ng / mL, 26.85 ng / mL). While the mean rate of Placental Growth Factor (PIGF) in the EO-PE group was lower than that of the LO-PE group, 5.79 \pm 0.42 ng / mL and 6.72 \pm 0.76 ng / mL respectively. These differences were significant with a value of $p < 0.05$. The increased soluble level of Fms-Like tyrosine

kinase-1, soluble Endoglin(sEng) accompanied by decreased levels of Placenta Growth Factor (PIGF) suggests an imbalance between antiangiogenic and angiogenic levels that may result in endothelial dysfunction. The occurrence of EO-PE and LO-PE is due to malperfusion and placental dysfunction, so maternal factors can be said to contribute to increasing the incidence of all preeclampsia, both EO-PE and LO-PE. (Cathrine-Anne and Readman, 2018)

V. CONCLUSION

There was a significant difference between the levels of soluble fms-like

tyrosine kinase-1 (sFlt-1) and soluble Endoglin (sEng) in each group which were higher in EO-PE than in LO-PE while Placental Growth Factor (PIGF) was lower in EO-PE compared to LO-PE.

There is a significant difference that fms-like tyrosine kinase-1 (sFlt-1) and soluble endoglin (sEng) levels in Early Onset Preeclampsia (EO-PE) are higher compared to Late Onset Preeclampsia (LO-PE) whereas the Placental Growth Factor (PIGF) lower in Early Onset Preeclampsia (EO-PE) compared to Late Onset Preeclampsia (LO-PE).

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