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Inherited thrombophilia is unlikely to affect the outcome of assisted reproductive techniques

In recent years, Haematologica has published several papers on the subject of genetic thrombophilia.[1-10] More recently, Grandone *et al.*[11] reported data suggesting that maternal thrombophilia is significantly associated with fetal death, and that a family history of obstetric complications is significantly associated with the occurrence of fetal death. In this issue, Facchinetti and co-workers[12] report studies indicating that patients suffering from abruptio placentae need to be screened for thrombophilic disorders. The related editorial 13 discusses the relationship between obstetric complications and inherited thrombophilia.

The paper by Martinelli and co-workers[14] adds an important contribution to the role of inherited thrombophilia in women who fail to become pregnant after assisted reproductive techniques. In particular, the prevalence of thrombophilia due to factor V Leiden or prothrombin 20210GA in women with implantation failure after assisted reproductive procedures is similar to that found in the general population. Therefore, anticoagulant treatment is not warranted in women undergoing assisted reproductive procedures.

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Immunological abnormalities in patients with chronic myeloid leukemia

The approach to treatment of the individual patient with chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) has changed considerably in the last few years, as also documented in this journal.[1-12] Two studies in this issue address the question of immunologic abnormalities in CML patients. Observations by Kiani and coworkers[13] point to T cell dysfunction as a potential pathogenetic mechanism: reversal of T-cell dysfunction might be the basis for future immune therapeutic approaches. Steegman and coworkers[14] report data indicating that hypogammaglobulinemia can develop in as many as 25% of CML patients previously exposed to interferon-alpha and who are then treated with imatinib. This may reflect a dysregulation of B-lymphocyte function, and requires close immunologic evaluation.

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