



Title	Differentiation of acute fatty liver of pregnancy from syndrome of hemolysis, elevated liver enzymes and low platelet counts
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1 **[Review ARTICLE] for *J Obstet Gynaecol Res***

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3 **Differentiation of acute fatty liver of pregnancy from syndrome of hemolysis,**
4 **elevated liver enzymes, and low platelet counts**

5

6 **Short title:** AFLP and HELLP syndrome

7

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21 **ABSTRACT**

22 **Background:** As proposed criteria (Swansea criteria) for the diagnosis of acute fatty
23 liver of pregnancy (AFLP) do not include antithrombin activity, diagnosis of AFLP may
24 be delayed.

25 **Aims:** To underscore problems in differential diagnosis of AFLP and the syndrome of
26 hemolysis, elevated liver enzymes, and low platelet counts (HELLP syndrome) and to
27 facilitate prompt diagnosis of AFLP.

28 **Methods:** Review of literatures dealing with liver dysfunction in pregnancy, HELLP
29 syndrome, and AFLP.

30 **Results:** AFLP and HELLP syndrome shared common clinical, laboratory, histological,
31 and genetic features, differential diagnosis between them was often difficult. However,
32 HELLP syndrome was likely to occur in patients with hypertension, but AFLP occurred
33 often in the absence of hypertension. In addition, AFLP was exclusively associated with
34 pregnancy-induced antithrombin deficiency (PIATD). Approximately 50% of patients
35 with AFLP did not have thrombocytopenia at presentation. As the Swansea criteria for
36 AFLP did not include PIATD, diagnosis of AFLP was delayed until manifestation of
37 life-threatening complications; 60 percent of women were admitted to intensive care
38 and 15% to a specialist liver unit.

39 **Conclusions:** Incorporation of AT activity $< 65\%$ into the diagnostic criteria for AFLP
40 may facilitate suspicion and prompt diagnosis of AFLP, decrease uncertainty regarding
41 the diagnosis of AFLP, and contribute to better investigation and understanding of the
42 process leading to the development of liver dysfunction.

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43 **Key words:** antithrombin activity, blood vessel permeability, liver dysfunction,

44 preeclampsia, thrombocytopenia

45

46

47 **Introduction**

48 Approximately 3% of pregnant women develop liver dysfunction [1]. Acute fatty liver
49 of pregnancy (AFLP) and the syndrome of hemolysis, elevated liver enzymes, and low
50 platelet counts (HELLP syndrome) are life-threatening complications with high rates of
51 severe maternal morbidity and mortality [2 – 4]. **However, there has been a great deal**
52 **of confusion regarding the differential diagnosis between AFLP and HELLP**
53 **syndrome. The former is a disease entity based on liver histology originally derived**
54 **from autopsy findings by Sheehan in 1940 [5], while the latter is a disease entity**
55 **based on laboratory data (LDH elevation, AST elevation, and thrombocytopenia)**
56 **established in 1982 by Weinstein [6]. As both conditions require termination of**
57 **pregnancy to rescue the mother, early suspicion and prompt diagnosis may be**
58 **important to improve outcome.**

59
60 **This review was conducted to underscore the problems in differential diagnosis of**
61 **AFLP from HELLP syndrome, facilitate suspicion and prompt diagnosis of AFLP,**
62 **and to decrease uncertainty regarding the diagnosis of AFLP.**

63
64 **Methods**

65 **Clinical symptoms, and laboratory, histological, and genetic features suggestive of**
66 **AFLP and HELLP syndrome were studied in English literature reports that were**
67 **abstracted from the database of PubMed (1979 – December 2012) using the search**
68 **terms including “acute fatty liver of pregnancy”, “HELLP syndrome”, and “liver**

69 **dysfunction in pregnancy”**. **English literatures cited in these reports were also**
70 **reviewed.**

71

72 **Results and Discussion**

73 *Symptoms and complications in AFLP and HELLP syndrome and Swansea criteria for*
74 *diagnosis of AFLP*

75 Prodromal symptoms of AFLP **included** nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain, malaise,
76 polydipsia/polyuria, jaundice/dark urine, encephalopathy, and
77 hypertension/preeclampsia [7 – 13] (Table 1). Similar symptoms were seen in HELLP
78 syndrome: malaise in 100% [6]; nausea with or without vomiting in 24% – 100% [6, 14,
79 15]; and abdominal pain in 31% – 90% of cases [6, 14, 15]. Although hypertension **was**
80 seen less frequently in AFLP (26% – 70% [Table 1] vs. 80% – 100% in HELLP
81 syndrome [6, 14, 15]), severe morbidities such as acute renal failure, coagulopathy, and
82 encephalopathy **appeared** to be more frequent in AFLP than in HELLP syndrome
83 (Table 1). Acute renal failure, coagulopathy, and central nervous system involvement
84 **occurred** in 1.2% – 8.0%, 20% – 38%, and 2.4% of HELLP syndrome cases,
85 respectively [14, 15]. Thus, **as AFLP and HELLP syndrome shared common clinical**
86 **symptoms, differential diagnosis between them was often difficult.**

87

88 As women with AFLP often **lacked** hypertension, they may **not have been** found to
89 have AFLP until they manifest clinical symptoms. As women with preeclampsia are
90 recommended to undergo blood tests at least twice a week [16], laboratory

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91 abnormalities may be found early before the development of serious complications in
92 HELLP syndrome. These observations may explain why women with severe
93 hypertension are less likely to show severe thrombocytopenia in HELLP syndrome [17].

94

95 Criteria for diagnosis of AFLP have been proposed (Table 2) [1,11]. These **allowed**
96 diagnosis of AFLP when women **were** critically ill, but approximately half of AFLP
97 patients based on the Swansea criteria also fulfilled the criteria for HELLP syndrome
98 [18]. Of the 57 confirmed cases with AFLP based on the Swansea criteria, including 10
99 women with twins [11], 84% of women indeed exhibited clinical symptoms: vomiting
100 (60%), abdominal pain (56%), polydipsia (12%) and encephalopathy (9%). Sixty
101 percent of women were admitted to intensive care and 15% to a specialist liver unit.
102 One woman received a liver transplant. One woman died. There were seven deaths
103 among 67 infants [11]. Thus, the Swansea criteria [1, 11] may allow diagnosis of AFLP
104 only when women become critically ill.

105

106 *Liver histology in patients with AFLP and HELLP syndrome*

107 The current clinical entity of AFLP was established by Sheehan in 1940 [5]. Liver
108 histology of AFLP differed from “true acute yellow atrophy of liver” in which liver cell
109 necrosis **was** the main finding, while there **were** gross fatty changes affecting the entire
110 lobule except a sharply defined rim of normal cells around the portal tracts [5]. Since
111 then, microvesicular fatty change in the liver has been considered characteristic for
112 AFLP [19,20]. However, as fatty changes **were** seen to varying degrees in patients with

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113 either AFLP or HELLP syndrome [21 – 23], and in pregnant women without liver
114 dysfunction [21] and non-pregnant women [24], detection of fatty changes in the liver
115 **was** not diagnostic of AFLP. Other findings such as fibrin deposition and focal
116 parenchymal necrosis in the liver **overlapped** between AFLP and HELLP syndrome
117 [22, 25]. **Thus, as AFLP and HELLP syndrome shared common histological**
118 **features, differential diagnosis between them was often difficult.**

119

Genetic background in pregnant women with liver dysfunction

120 An association between maternal liver dysfunction and recessively inherited fatty acid
121 oxidation (FAO) disorders in the fetus has been elucidated in the past two decades [26 –
122 30]. Mitochondrial trifunctional protein (MTP) catalyzes the last three steps in
123 mitochondrial long-chain FAO. Human defects in the MTP complex **caused** either
124 isolated long chain 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase (LCHAD) deficiency or
125 complete MTP deficiency with markedly reduced FAO activity [31]. Women carrying
126 fetuses with MTP defects **were** at higher risk of developing liver dysfunction, including
127 AFLP and HELLP syndrome [28 – 30]. A prospective study focusing on the association
128 between maternal liver dysfunction and fetal MTP mutations demonstrated that 5 of 20
129 pregnancies affected by AFLP carried a fetus with LCHAD deficiency, while none of
130 81 pregnancies affected by HELLP syndrome carried a fetus with LCHAD deficiency
131 [30]. However, as the majority of women complicated with AFLP did not carry a fetus
132 with MTP mutations, it **is still** unclear whether these tests are clinically useful for the
133 differential diagnosis of AFLP from HELLP syndrome.

135

136 *Platelet count and AT activity in patients with AFLP and HELLP syndrome*

137 **Platelets are essential for hemostasis and its count ranges from $150 \times 10^9/L$ to**
138 **$350 \times 10^9/L$ in healthy subjects. Antithrombin (AT) is essential for the**
139 **anticoagulation of circulating blood ant its activity ranges from 80% to 130% in**
140 **healthy subjects.**

141

142 Thrombocytopenia is **exclusively** seen in HELLP syndrome [6], while varied platelet
143 counts were seen in AFLP [3, 32 – 39, 9, 11 – 13, 40 – 48] (Table 3). The mean or
144 median value for platelet count at presentation **ranged** from $123 \times 10^9/L$ [42] to
145 $151 \times 10^9/L$ [45], while AT activity **was** exclusively and severely depressed, ranging
146 from 0.0% to 69% when tested [32 – 39] (Table 3). However, two prospective studies to
147 determine the incidences of liver dysfunction and AFLP conducted in the UK in 1999
148 and 2005 using the Swansea criteria for diagnosis of AFLP (Table 2) did not determine
149 AT activity or query status of AT activity [1,11]. Twenty-four (52%) of 46 AFLP
150 patients tested had coagulopathy in the absence of thrombocytopenia ($< 100 \times 10^9/L$)
151 [11].

152

153 *Changes in platelet count and AT activity during pregnancy*

154 Both production and consumption of platelets **were** enhanced in pregnancy [49 – 51]
155 especially in women with preeclampsia [49,52]. Hypermegakaryocytosis **was** seen in
156 pregnant rats [53]. Approximately 6.0% of pregnant women showed reduced peripartum

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157 platelet count $< 150 \times 10^9/L$ [54 – 56]. Of 1027 women with a reduced platelet count,
158 216 (21%) were explained by pregnancy-induced hypertension (PIH), and 756 (74%)
159 were not explained by known disorders, such as autoimmune thrombocytopenic purpura
160 or systemic lupus erythematosus [55], yielding the new term “gestational
161 thrombocytopenia” [57]. Gestational thrombocytopenia was shown to be due to a
162 gradual decline in the platelet count during the third trimester of pregnancy [56].

163 Reduced AT activity **was** seen in preeclampsia [58]. AT activity **decreased** even in
164 healthy women during the third trimester; AT activity decreased significantly from
165 $100\% \pm 12\%$ at 28 weeks of gestation to $82\% \pm 8\%$ at 36 weeks of gestation in women
166 with AT activity $< 91\%$ at 36 weeks of gestation [59]; and 1st and 3rd percentile AT
167 activity values **were** 66% and 69%, respectively, just before birth in healthy women
168 [60].

169

170 *Relationships between the decrease in the platelet count and AT activity and subsequent*
171 *aspartate aminotransferase (AST) elevation*

172 The relation between gestational thrombocytopenia and HELLP syndrome was
173 examined in women with singleton pregnancies [61]. The frequency of perinatal AST
174 elevation (> 30 IU/L) was compared between 24 women with gestational
175 thrombocytopenia and 213 control women. The 24 women exhibited a gradual decline
176 in platelet count from $210 \pm 31 \times 10^9/L$ at the beginning of pregnancy to $127 \pm 24 \times 10^9/L$
177 before delivery. AST elevation occurred more frequently in the women with gestational
178 thrombocytopenia than in the controls (21% [5/24] vs. 2.8% [6/213], respectively, $P <$

179 0.001). This relationship was verified again in twin pregnancies [62]. Thus, women with
180 gestational thrombocytopenia **were** at higher risk of developing liver dysfunction (Fig.
181 1).

182 In patients with liver dysfunction whose antenatal changes in AT activity were
183 documented, AT activity gradually decreased to < 65% before the development of liver
184 dysfunction [25, 36, 38,]. These cases strongly suggested that women with reduced AT
185 activity **were** at higher risk of developing liver dysfunction. This hypothesis was
186 verified in a longitudinal and observational study of 237 women with twin pregnancies
187 [62]. The risk of AST elevation increased as the antenatal AT activity and/or the platelet
188 count decreased and was associated more closely with AT activity than the platelet
189 count [62], yielding the new term “pregnancy-induced AT deficiency (PIATD)” [63,64].
190 Thus, women with PIATD **were** at higher risk of developing liver dysfunction (Fig. 1).

191

192 Women with PIATD alone **accounted** for a considerable fraction of those with liver
193 dysfunction. In a study of 13 hospitalized women with liver dysfunction [25], 7 had
194 thrombocytopenia ($< 130 \times 10^9/L$) on admission and one of the remaining 6 developed
195 thrombocytopenia. AT activity was determined in 12 patients; PIATD (AT activity <
196 65%) alone in 2, both PIATD and thrombocytopenia in 5, thrombocytopenia alone in 3,
197 and neither PIATD nor thrombocytopenia in 2 [25]. In another study [65], 6 women
198 with AT activity < 45% exclusively developed AST elevation (> 60 IU/L), but 5 of the
199 6 did not develop thrombocytopenia ($< 150 \times 10^9/L$), while none of 144 women with AT
200 activity $\geq 45\%$, including 9 women with thrombocytopenia, developed AST elevation

201 [65]. However, both thrombocytopenia and PIATD **occurred** in advanced stage; in 18
202 women diagnosed with HELLP syndrome, platelet count (mean and [range]) of 83 (15 –
203 131) $\times 10^9/L$ and AT activity of 60 (18 – 98)% at admission decreased to 65 (20 –
204 97) $\times 10^9/L$ and 56 (18 – 95)% at delivery, respectively [66].

205

206 *Reason for higher risk of developing HELLP syndrome and AFLP in multifetal*
207 *pregnancies*

208 The risk of HELLP syndrome **increased** with increasing number of fetuses; HELLP
209 syndrome occurred in 0.2%, 0.9%, and 2.1% of singleton, twin, and triplet pregnancies,
210 respectively [67]. A similar prevalence of HELLP syndrome, 1.4% (34/2478), was
211 reported among women with twin pregnancies [68]. In other studies, HELLP syndrome
212 occurred in 3.0% of twin pregnancies [62] and in 9.0% – 10.5% of triplet pregnancies
213 [69,70]. Although twin pregnancies **accounted** for only 1.0% – 2.0% of all pregnancies,
214 they accounted for 10.3% – 15.5% of all women with HELLP syndrome [14,71]. The
215 platelet count **was** likely to decrease during pregnancy with increasing number of
216 fetuses. The mean platelet count decreases gradually in women with twin and triplet
217 pregnancies [59,62,72]. The 10th percentile value of platelet count before delivery,
218 137 $\times 10^9/L$ [62] for twin pregnancies **corresponded** to 3rd – 4th percentile value for
219 singleton pregnancies [54 – 56]. Gestational thrombocytopenia $< 100 \times 10^9/L$ was seen in
220 17% of twin pregnancies [72] and in 17% – 43% triplet pregnancies [72,73]. As women
221 with gestational thrombocytopenia are likely to develop liver dysfunction [61,62],
222 multifetal pregnancies may be prone to HELLP syndrome.

223

224 The risk of AFLP was higher in twin than singleton pregnancies (Table 4). Among 16
225 reports of 10 or more women with AFLP, 12 reports indicated a high prevalence of twin
226 pregnancies ranging from 7.1% to 28.6% (Table 4). In another study, AFLP occurred in
227 7.3% of 55 women with triplet pregnancies [69]. Approximately 1.0% of women with
228 singleton pregnancies **showed** a gradual decline in AT activity to less than 65% in the
229 absence of hypertension [60,64]. In women with twin pregnancies, the mean AT activity
230 **decreased** gradually independent of hypertension [59,62]. The 10th percentile AT
231 activity value before delivery of 67% [62] for twin pregnancies **corresponded** to 2nd
232 percentile AT activity value for singleton pregnancies [60]. PIATD < 60% was present
233 in 17% and 57% of twin and triplet pregnancies, respectively [72]. As women with
234 PIATD are likely to develop liver dysfunction [36,38, 25,62], multifetal pregnancies
235 may be prone to AFLP.

236

237 *Clinical features of women with PIATD with or without liver dysfunction*

238 A considerable number of women with AFLP **showed** proteinuria in the absence of
239 hypertension [7,19,74], and **experienced** polydipsia and pulmonary edema (Table 1).
240 Reduced AT activity < 70% of that in controls **was** seen in approximately one third of
241 women with isolated proteinuria without PIH [75], suggesting a close relationship
242 between reduced AT activity and proteinuria. The appearance of pulmonary edema **may**
243 **be** likely a consequence of enhanced vascular permeability and the endothelial leakage
244 of plasma into the interstitial space. The plasma volume **was** reduced by approximately

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245 20% in women with preeclampsia [76] in whom generalized edema **was** often seen [77].
246 The process underlying the retention of water during pregnancy **may be** reversed by
247 parturition, and the excess water in the interstitial space **may return** into the
248 intravascular space, resulting in a drop in the hematocrit value; the excess water **may be**
249 then excreted as urine. Women with PIATD **showed** a larger and sustained decrease in
250 the hematocrit value after delivery than those without PIATD, suggesting antenatal
251 hemoconcentration and a decreased plasma volume in women with PIATD [64]. AT
252 **escaped** from the blood into the interstitial space [78]; six ascites samples from six
253 women with PIATD and generalized edema contained AT (mean \pm SD, 4.9 ± 2.2 mg/dL;
254 range, 2.7 – 8.8 mg/dL) and exhibited an AT activity level of $15.5\% \pm 6.0\%$ (range, 10%
255 – 24%) (reference intervals in the blood, 17.0 – 25.0 mg/dL for concentration and 80%
256 – 130% for activity). These findings **suggested** that AT activity may **have reflected** the
257 degree of vascular permeability and resultant shortage of circulating plasma volume,
258 explaining higher rates of pre-renal acute renal failure (Table 1), decreased blood flow
259 to the liver prior to the development of liver dysfunction [79], decreased blood flow in
260 the celiac axis [35], and an antenatal high hemoglobin concentration in patients with
261 severely depressed AT activity and liver dysfunction [65]. Hyperuricemia, frequently
262 seen in patients with PIATD [64], AFLP [21, 36], and preeclampsia [80] may be
263 explained by the reduced circulating plasma volume.

264

265 **Conclusions and proposal for differentiation of AFLP from HELLP syndrome**

266 Cardinal pathology associated with AFLP may be enhanced vascular permeability due

267 to endothelial cell dysfunction and resultant insufficiency in circulating blood volume
268 and enhancement of coagulation-fibrinolysis leading to consumption coagulopathy.
269 Clinical symptoms, such as vomiting and abdominal pain, **were** less likely to appear
270 until AT activity **was** severely depressed to < 45% [65]. However, subtle changes
271 associated with enhanced vascular permeability, such as edema, thirst/polydipsia,
272 proteinuria, and excessive weight gain, may occur before AT activity is severely
273 depressed [81]. Determination of AT activity in such women with the above minor
274 symptoms and multifetal pregnancies may contribute to early suspicion or diagnosis of
275 AFLP, thereby avoiding serious complications such as coagulopathy, renal failure,
276 encephalopathy, and hepatic failure. AFLP requires liver transplantation in some women
277 and may still be fatal in young women [3,4]. Incorporation of AT activity < 65% into
278 the diagnostic criteria for AFLP (Fig. 2) may facilitate prompt diagnosis of AFLP,
279 decrease uncertainty regarding the diagnosis of AFLP, and contribute to better
280 investigation and understanding of the process leading to the development of liver
281 dysfunction.

282

283 **Conflicts of Interest**

284 None of the authors have any conflicts of interest to declare

285

286

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515 **Figure legend**

516 **Fig. 1:** Schematic representation of the chronological relationship between decrease in
517 AT activity and elevation of serum AST (aspartate aminotransferase) and LDH (lactate
518 dehydrogenase)

519 Pregnancy-induced AT deficiency precedes elevation of the serum AST and LDH levels
520 in women with AFLP. The reduced AT activity and elevated AST/LDH levels begin to
521 normalize promptly after delivery if delivery occurs in timely manner before onset of
522 coagulopathy.

523

524 **Fig. 2:** Proposal of flow-chart leading to early diagnosis of acute fatty liver of
525 pregnancy (AFLP) and HELLP syndrome

526 The risk of AFLP and HELLP syndrome is higher in women with symptoms such as
527 abdominal pain and polydipsia, pregnancy-induced hypertension, isolated proteinuria,
528 and/or multifetal pregnancies than in women without these characteristics. *, Repeated
529 blood test is advisable for women with either a reduced platelet count (but, not reaching
530 $< 120 \times 10^9/L$) or reduced AT activity (but, not reaching $< 65\%$).

531 AT, antithrombin; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; LDH, lactate dehydrogenase.

532

533

Table 1. Frequency of symptoms and complications in women with AFLP

Symptoms/complications	% of women with AFLP [Reference]
Symptoms	
Nausea and vomiting	50% [12], 60% [11], 70% [9], 71% [8], 79% [13], 82% [7]
Abdominal pain	32% [13], 50% [8, 12], 55% [7], 56% [11], 70% [9]
Malaise	40% [9], 64% [8], 78% [12]
Polydipsia/polyuria	11% [13], 12% [11], 50% [9], 82% [7]
Jaundice/dark urine	29% [8], 32% [13], 94% [12], 100% [7, 9, 10]
Encephalopathy	9% [11], 11% [12, 13], 21% [8], 30% [9], 50% [37], 57% [10], 91% [7]
Hypertension/preeclampsia	26% [13], 32% [11], 36% [10], 39% [8], 70% [37]
Complications	
Acute renal failure	14% [11], 45% [7], 50% [10], 60% [9], 63% [13], 83% [12], 90% [37]
Postpartum hemorrhage	11% [13], 33% [12], 50% [9], 57% [10]
Coagulopathy	36% [7], 42% [11], 50% [9], 58% [13], 61% [12], 64% [10], 70% [37]
Pulmonary edema	5% [13], 7% [11], 17% [12], 30% [9]
<u>Gastrointestinal bleeding</u>	<u>5% [13], 7% [8], 11% [12], 36% [10]</u>

—

Table 2. Swansea criteria for diagnosis of AFLP [1]

Six or more of the following features in the absence of another explanation

- Vomiting
 - Abdominal pain
 - Polydipsia/polyuria
 - Encephalopathy
 - Elevated bilirubin (> 14 mmol/L)
 - Hypoglycemia (< 4 mmol/L)
 - Elevated urate (> 340 mmol/L)
 - Leucocytosis ($> 11 \times 10^9$ /L)
 - Ascites or bright liver on ultrasound scan
 - Elevated transaminases (AST or ALT > 42 IU/L)
 - Elevated ammonia (> 47 mmol/L)
 - Renal impairment (creatinine > 150 mmol/L)
 - Coagulopathy (prothrombin time > 14 s or activated partial thromboplastin time > 34 s)
 - Microvesicular steatosis on liver biopsy
-

Figures in parentheses were used in the UK National Survey on AFLP [11]

Table 3. Antithrombin activity and platelet count in women with AFLP

Author (year) [Ref.]	Number of cases	Antithrombin (%, activity)	Platelet ($\times 10^9/L$)
Minakami et al. (1982)[32]	1	2.2 mg/dL [†]	136*
Mosvold et al. (1982) [33]	2	9.0%, 14%	75*, 201*
Hellgren et al. (1983)[34]	1	<10%	60*
Mabie (1992) [40]	1	NA	132¶
Usta et al. (1994)[41]	14	NA	126 [15 – 300] §
Matsuda (1994)[35]	1	5.0%	152*
Castro et al. (1996)[36]	23	11% [0% – 30%]	113 (11 – 186) §
Pereira et al. (1997)[42]	32	NA	123 (26 – 262) *
Vigil-De Gracia et al. (2001)[37]	10	30% [12% – 69%]	76 (21 – 179) §
Izumi et al. (1998)[38]	1	55%	180¶
Davidson et al. (1998)[43]	3	NA	WNR in 2*, 128 in 1*
Moldenhauer et al. (2004)[44]	12	NA	84 (28 – 176) ‡
Fesenmeier et al. (2005)[45]	16	NA	151 (33 – 303) ¶
Mjahed et al. (2006)[9]	10	NA	141 (40 – 240) *
Knight et al. (2008)[11]	57	NA	122 (14 – 436) §
Westbrook et al. (2010)[46]	18	NA	100 (33 – 180) §
Lau et al. (2010)[12]	18	NA	121 (13 – 219) *
Wei et al. (2010)[47]	11	NA	59 (40 – 126) §
Aso et al. (2010)[39]	2	15%, 28%	WNR in all 2*
Dekker et al. (2011)[3]	16	NA	WNR in 6 §
Mellouli (2012)[13]	19	NA	<100 in 9 cases §
Dey et al. (2012)[48]	1	NA	130¶

NA, not assessed; WNR, within normal range; †, 17 – 25 mg/dL for normal reference value; *, on admission; ‡, nadir of platelet count; ¶, at diagnosis; §, at unspecified time.

Table 4. Frequency of twin pregnancy among women with AFLP

Author (year [Ref.])	No. of twins (%)
Reyes et al. (1994 [7])	0/11 (0.0)
Usta et al. (1994 [41])	0/14 (0.0)
Chen et al. (2008 [10])	0/14 (0.0)
Wei et al. (2010 [47])	0/11 (0.0)
Castro et al. (1996 [36])	2/28 (7.1)
Pereira et al. (1997 [42])	5/46* (10.9)
Vigil-De Gracia et al. (2001 [37])	4†/35 (11.0)
Riely (1987 [20])	19/140 (13.6)
Mellouli et al. (2011 [13])	3/19 (15.8)
Knight et al. (2008 [11])	10/57 (17.5)
Fesenmeier et al. (2005 [45])	3†/16 (18.8)
Mjahed et al. (2006 [9])	2/10 (20.0)
Lau et al. (2010 [12])	4/18 (22.2)
Dekker et al. (2011 [3])	4/18 (22.2)
Burroughs et al. (1982 [74])	3/12 (25.0)
Minakami et al. (1982 [32])	4/14 (28.6)

*, including 32, 7, and 7 women with AFLP, HELLP syndrome, and severe pregnancy-related liver disease, respectively; †, including one patient with triplet pregnancy.

Fig. 1

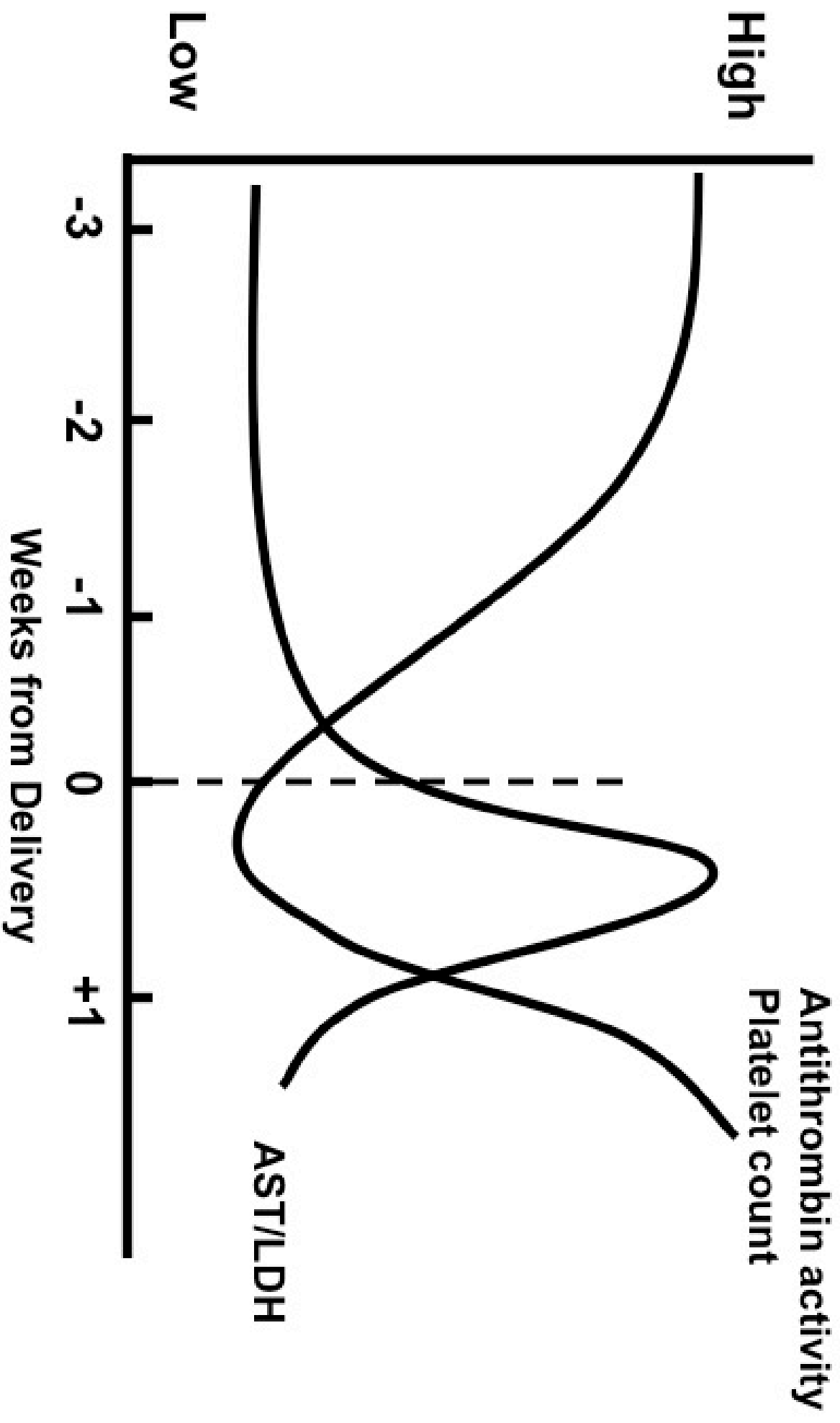


Fig. 2

