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**ABSTRACT** 

<u>Objective:</u> To compare the diagnostic accuracy of placental alpha micro-globulin-1 assay with standard methods (Nitrazine stick test and clinical pooling of amniotic fluid in the posterior fornix) for detecting rupture of fetal membranes.

**<u>Study Design:</u>** Prospective simple comparative diagnostic study.

<u>Setting:</u> The study was conducted in Central Hospital,. Benin City, Nigeria between February 2015 to June 2015.

## **Methods**

A three hundred and twenty patients at gestational age of 24 – 42 weeks with history, signs and symptoms suggestive of drainage of liquor were recruited after informed consent. Each patient was tested for rupture of fetal membranes using placental alpha microglobulin-1 immunoassay, Nitrazine stick and visual inspection of postenior fornix for liquour drainage to determine the accuracy of PAMG-1 compared with standard diagnostic tests. Individual patient had a pre-test questionnaire. The data generated were analysed using basic descriptive statistics.

<u>Main Outcome Measures</u>-Placental alpha **microglobulin** -1 immunoassay and standard diagnostic methods (Nitrazine stick and pooling of liquour) method of rupture of fetal membranes.

Results- A total of 320 patients were recruited. 280 out of 320 patients 87.5% had actual ruptured membranes, whereas 40 patients 15.5% had intact membranes. Placental alpha microglobulin-1 immunoassay had sensitivity of 99.2% specificity of 89.36%, positive predictive value of 95.45%. In Negative predictive of value 42..9% (6/14). In contrast, the conventional standard diagnostic methods (pooling, and Nitrazine test) confirms ROM with a sensitivity of 81.2% (125/154), specificity of 50% (3/6), positive predictive value of 97.7 %(125/128) and negative predictive value of 9.4%(3/32).

<u>Conclusion</u>- The PAMG-1 immunoassay was a statistically better test in detecting ROM compared to the conventional standard diagnostic methods 94.8%(146/154) verus 81.2%(125/154) p< 0.000 Fisher's test

**<u>Key words:</u>** Amnisure<sup>(R)</sup> Nitrazine, Pooling of liquor, rupture of fetal membrane accuracy.