## **Article 1**

## Association of MicroRNA-155rs767649 Polymorphism with Susceptibility to Preeclampsia

## Abstract:

Preeclampsia (PE) is a multifactorial disorder. Several studies showed that micro RNAs may play a critical role in PE pathogenesis. We aimed to investigate for the first time the association of mir-155rs767649 polymorphism with PE. Eighty patients with preeclampsia and 80 normal subjects were enrolled in the study. Serum expression levels of mature mir-155were evaluated using real-time PCR, and mir-155 rs767649 (T/A) polymorphism was genotyped using TaqMan SNP genotyping. There was a significant difference between the expression level of mir-155 in cases  $(5.86 \pm 3.11)$  in comparison with controls  $(0.58 \pm 0.30)$  (P<0.0001). Also, the minor allele of rs767649 was significantly associated with increased risk of PE [Recessive model: adjusted Odds ratio (OR) = 5.240, 95% confidence interval (CI) = (1.999-13.733),P= 0.001]. There was a significant difference between different genotypes according to expression levels of mir-155 in PE (P<0.0001) with high expression levels in TA genotype  $(7.10 \pm 3.11)$ . Mir-155 may play a critical role in PE pathogenesis. The obtained data suggest that a minor allele of rs767649 might be a predisposing factor for PE.