Letter To Editor

Prostate-specific antigen in females: A new tool?

We read with interest the article\(^1\) depicting the use of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) as a diagnostic tool in polycystic ovarian disease. While serum PSA levels in females are much lower than in males, and often need ultrasensitive immunoassays for quantification,\(^2\) their importance cannot be overlooked. Indeed, PSA has come up as a potential serological diagnostic and prognostic tool in women recently. Increased levels of serum PSA has been detected in women with breast cysts and fibroadenoma\(^3\) and is also thought to be a prognostic marker in women with metastatic breast cancer treated with megestrol acetate.\(^4\) However, the levels of PSA in malignant breast tissue have been found to be lower than in normal breast tissue or benign hyperplasia.\(^5\) The value of PSA also increases in carcinoma of the female prostate (Skene's gland).\(^6\) PSA has been detected in amniotic fluids\(^7\) with the levels varying with gestational age and hence it has been suggested as a candidate growth factor.\(^7,8\)

Thus, while much remains to be known about the biology of the physiological function of PSA in females, evidence indicates that it may emerge as a robust serological tool in near future for diagnosis and prognosis of many disorders.

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Conflict of Interests
Authors have no conflict of interests.

References