

# Evaluation of the link between pelvimetry based on computed tomography and predicting status' delivery

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**Objectives** The aim of this study is an anthropometric study in non-pregnant reproductive-aged women to predicting kind of delivery.

**Methods** This study was based on the archived information of Hazrat-e Rasool university hospital on 157 generative age women from 16 to 60 years old who underwent CT between March 2015 and March 2018.

**Results** The obtained results showed that the three conjugates on sagittal plane, transverse diameter, anteroposterior sagittal diameter, interspinous diameter, and intertuberous diameter on the coronal plane. The obstetrical conjugate was 123.3 mm in normal vaginal delivery and 113.9 mm in Cesarean section, which was slightly longer than delivery group. The mean interspinous and intertuberous diameters measured by CT scans were 105.0 and 107.4 mm.

**Conclusion** The results of our study showed that because of the reduction in diameter of the inlet and middle pelvis, the rate of cesarean section was higher in females under 35 years ages .

**Keywords** pelvimetry, computed tomography, non-pregnant women

## Introduction

The pelvimetry refers to the evaluation of the diameters of the bony pelvis to assess the pelvic cavity for the passage of a fetus.<sup>1</sup> The maternal pelvis morphological feature is important predictive factor of vaginal delivery.

The female pelvis was classified by Caldwell-Moloy based on shape in 1933. This classification contain four main pelvic types; gynaecoid (50%), android (25%), anthropoid (20%), and platypelloid (0.5%) (Fig. 1).<sup>2</sup> The prevalence of pelvic varieties is different according to sex and races.<sup>3</sup>

For successful vaginal delivery proper shape and size of the pelvis is necessary. The contracted pelvis leads to disturbances like premature rupture of the membrane, ineffective contractions, abnormal conditions of the fetus, labor dystocia, and finally increasing in rate of cesarean section.<sup>3</sup> The elective cesarean in these cases could improve the result of delivery. Although cesarean delivery rate is increased in last decades.<sup>5-8</sup> The result of recent studies showed that rate of cesarean is raised.<sup>9-12</sup>

In normal female pelvis, a longer diameter of the inlet (the transverse diameter) and a longer diameter of the midpelvis (the anteroposterior diameter) are placed perpendicularly. Therefore, a fetal head rotates from a transverse position in the pelvic inlet to a sagittal position in the midpelvis. Narrowing of the pelvic cavity in the midpelvis prevent this rotation. Klemm et al. demonstrated that narrow midpelvis and inadequate proportion of the pelvic inlet causes the emergency cesarean section.<sup>13</sup> The pelvic inlet and midpelvis are important factors to the anthropological analysis of the female pelvic typology.<sup>14</sup>

Nowadays evaluation of pelvic types based on clinical examination and imaging techniques including CT, MRI, radiography and US are available.<sup>14,15</sup> The previous studies have shown that pelvimetry with CT is convenient and

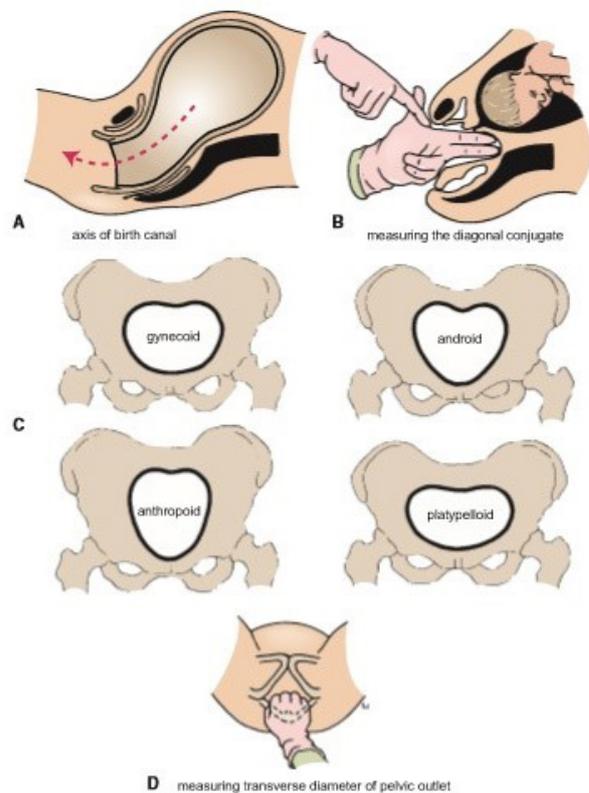


Fig. 1 Different types of pelvic inlets according to classification of Caldwell-Moloy.<sup>4</sup>

accurate technique.<sup>16</sup> The assessment of pelvic types in addition to another anatomy parameters has clinical importance in predicting the procedures of pregnancy and childbirth in

reproductive-aged women. In the present work, results of pelvimetry of 157 non-pregnant reproductive-aged women admitted Hazrat-e Rasool university hospital in Tehran evaluated.

## Materials and Methods

### Study Design and Participants

This research was a retrospective study. The clinical records and reports of abdominal CT scans of women referred to radiology department of Hazrat-e Rasool Akram university hospital, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran during March 2015 to March 2018 were recruited. Subjects according to inclusion and exclusion criteria were eligible. One hundred and fifty-five non-pregnant reproductive-aged women were included and pelvic fractures, lumbosacral spondylolisthesis, pelvic bone tumor, or anomalies and diseases or trauma affected the bony pelvic structure were excluded. In this work, CT examination was conducted using CT scanner (Siemens Medical Systems Inc., Madison, WI, USA).<sup>17</sup>

The obstetrical importance of anteroposterior diameter (diagonal conjugate) is from the tip of the sacral promontory to the lower border of the symphysis pubis (Fig. 2). The true conjugate was determined by measuring the distance from the tip of the sacral promontory to the upper border of the symphysis pubis. The obstetric conjugate is the shortest distance between the tip of the sacral promontory and the most bulging point on the back of symphysis pubis that was measured on the sagittal radiograph. The transverse diameter of the pelvic inlet is the distance between the farthest two points on the iliopectineal lines that were measured on the anteroposterior radiograph. The interspinous diameter of the midpelvis is the distance between the ischial spines that were measured on the axial radiograph. The anteroposterior diameter of the pelvic outlet is determined by measuring the distance from the lower border of the symphysis pubis to the sacrococcygeal joint that was measured on the sagittal radiograph (Fig. 2). The intertuberous diameter of the outlet is the distance between the inner borders of ischial tuberosities that is measured on the anteroposterior radiograph.<sup>18</sup> The pelvimetry measurements were assessed by the radiographs and using electronic calipers with an internal scale.

### Ethics Statement

This study was performed in accordance with the ethical rules of Helsinki Declaration. All the procedures used in this research was approved by the Ethics Committee of Iran University of Medical Sciences (NO.IR.IUMS.REC.1397.234).

### Statistical Analysis

The obtained data and analytical measurements were recorded and compared. Analysis of collected maternal data including age, gravidity, parity, weight, and height were used as covariates to understand the relationship between pelvic types and kind of delivery. In this study, categorical variables were presented as number (percent) and continuous variables as mean  $\pm$  SD with min-max or percentage as appropriate. Statistical analyses were performed using commercially available software (IBM SPSS Statistics version 22; IBM, Chicago, IL, USA). Comparison and correlation of variables were conducted with and correlation tests and a  $p < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

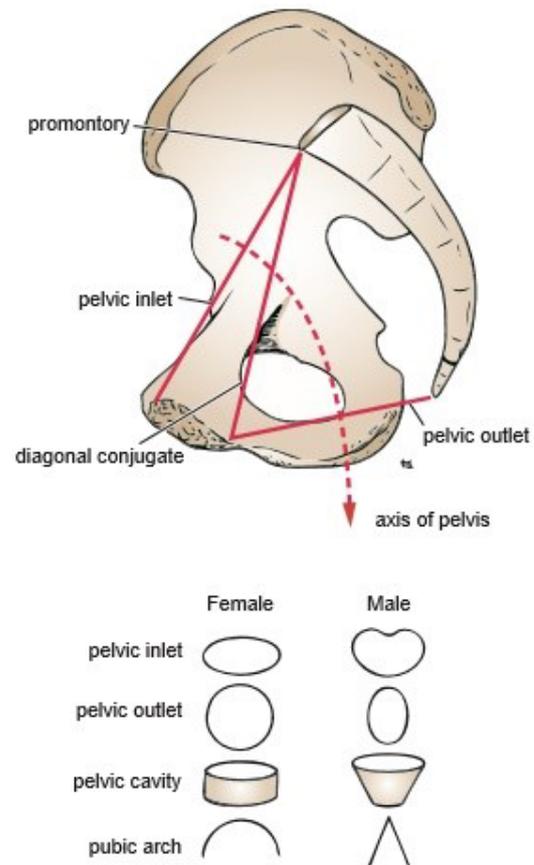


Fig. 2 Pelvic inlet, outlet and diagonal conjugate according to Snell clinical anatomy.<sup>4</sup>

## Results

Pelvic anatomical measurements of 157 subjects were analyzed in the present study. Among the studied subjects, age ranged from 16 to 60 years, height ranged from 150 to 180 cm, and population weight ranged from 43 to 98 kg. Out of these, 102 (65.0%) had at least one normal vaginal delivery (NVD group), and 55 individuals (35.0%) had undergone at least one cesarean section (C-Sec group). The indication of cesarean delivery was cephalopelvic disproportion. The demographic and anatomical characteristics of the investigated women are summarized in Table 1. Subjects with cesarean section had a lower height than those with NVD (Mann-Whitney  $U$ -test,  $P = 0.035$ ). Besides, the C-Section group of mothers had shorter obstetrical conjugate and interspinous diameter than those in the NVD group ( $P < 0.05$  for both parameters) (Table 1). No significant difference was observed between two arms of the study in terms of age, weight, parity, true conjugate, diagonal conjugate, transverse diameter, posterior sagittal diameter, intertuberous diameter, and anteroposterior diameter (Table 1).

The frequency distribution of different types of pelvis has been presented in Table 2. The chi square findings unveiled that the relative frequency of android pelvis were statistically higher in C-Sec group ( $P = 0.036$ ). The percentages of other types of pelvis were comparable between the two groups of females (Table 2).

The obtained results demonstrated that scatter plots of pelvic anatomical measurements was stratified according to

Table 1. Sensitivity and specificity of diagnostic values of CK-18 and FLI for detection of NAFLD

Demographic/anatomic characteristic	Total (n = 157)	NVD (n = 102)	C-Sec (n = 55)	P-value*
Age [yr], median (IQR)	35 (30–39)	35 (29–37)	35 (31–40)	0.725
Height [cm], median (IQR)	165 (160–169)	167 (164–170)	161 (157–164)	<b>0.035</b>
Weight [kg], median (IQR)	70 (63–78)	71 (64–78)	70 (62–77)	0.913
No. of delivery, median (range)	1 (1–8)	1 (1–8)	1 (1–3)	0.739
True conjugate [mm], median (IQR)	122.0 (114.5–130.0)	123.7 (113.0–132.2)	120.1 (111.9–131.5)	0.335
Obstetrical conjugate [mm], median (IQR)	118.2 (113.4–125.4)	123.3 (115.7–127.1)	113.9 (108.0–120.1)	<b>0.013</b>
Diagonal conjugate [mm], median (IQR)	123.9 (114.1–129.5)	126.5 (117.3–134.3)	125.5 (112.1–131.3)	0.136
Transverse diameter [mm], median (IQR)	220.3 (210.3–230.7)	223.4 (212.1–233.1)	219.1 (210.0–228.2)	0.259
Posterior sagittal diameter [mm], median (IQR)	35.2 (28.0–39.5)	36.9 (29.1–41.2)	35.8 (28.9–38.1)	0.417
Interspinous diameter [mm], median (IQR)	105.0 (99.3–110.5)	109.4 (104.2–114.1)	101.0 (95.4–107.0)	<b>0.029</b>
Intertuberous diameter [mm], median (IQR)	107.4 (101.3–112.5)	109.8 (104.4–115.3)	107.2 (101.5–111.1)	0.281
Anteroposterior diameter [mm], median (IQR)	113.3 (106.5–117.4)	113.9 (105.8–119.0)	111.8 (105.5–118.2)	0.363

\*Computed by Mann–Whitney U-test

Abbreviation: C-sec, Cesarean section, IQR, interquartile range (25th–75th percentile); NVD, Normal vaginal delivery

Table 2. Frequency of different types of pelvis in the study population

Type of pelvis	Total (n = 157)	NVD (n = 102)	C-Sec (n = 55)	P-value*
Gynaecoid pelvis (Round), n (%)	91 (58.0)	62 (60.8)	29 (52.7)	0.716
Android pelvis (Transverse oval), n (%)	14 (8.9)	5 (4.9)	9 (16.4)	<b>0.036</b>
Anthropoid pelvis (Long oval), n (%)	14 (8.9)	8 (7.8)	6 (10.9)	0.564
Platypelloid pelvis (Flat), n (%)	38 (24.2)	27 (26.5)	11 (20.0)	0.437

\*Computed by Fisher's exact test

the median age of the population. Statistical analysis revealed that the median values of true conjugate (Fig. 3A), obstetrical conjugate (Fig. 3B), diagonal conjugate (Fig. 3C), transverse diameter (Fig. 3D), posterior sagittal diameter (Fig. 3E), and interspinous diameter (Fig. 3F) were significantly lower in women aged <35 years than women aged >35 years in C-Sec group ( $P < 0.05$ ). Although no significant differences were shown between women more or less than 35 years of age who had undergone spontaneous vaginal delivery (NVD group) (Fig. 3A–H).

## Discussion

In this study, all 157 subjects had a true conjugate ( $122.0 \pm 9.0$  mm) and a diagonal conjugate ( $123.9 \pm 9.5$  mm). The obstetrical conjugate was 123.3 mm in NVD and 113.9 mm in C-sec. It was slightly longer than the delivery group. This difference in diameter of conjugates is assumed to originate from the measurements made in younger women who have a cesarean section and they have not experienced vaginal delivery.

The cesarean-section is also called cesarean delivery. However, the C-section has many risks such as wound infection, blood loss, injury to an organ just like the gastrointestinal tract or bladder, adverse reactions, although the cesarean-section has been grown in Iran.<sup>19</sup>

Regarding to evidences based on the anatomy and anthropology sciences, the pelvimetry technique has an important

role in determination of the bony pelvis diameters and estimating the pelvic diameters.<sup>1</sup>

In this study, results of pelvimetry using CT in study population and its association with increased cesarean section rate were evaluated. In this study, the height of mothers did not match with type of delivery and pelvis dimensions. Furthermore, no relationship was found between pelvis type and body mass index.

Previous studies have shown that maternal height is related to the risk of cesarean section.

Cesarean section rises with shortness of maternal height.<sup>20</sup> The data of our study showed that the gynaecoid pelvis (58%), platypelloid (24.2%), anthropoid (8.9%), and android (8.9%). The size and shape of the pelvic canal vary in women, and the gynecoid pelvis is usually the most appropriate type of pelvis for vaginal delivery. However, we know that Android and platypelloid are not suitable for childbirth. A previous study showed that mothers with gynecoid pelvis had better outcomes (71.6%–47.8%).<sup>21</sup>

In this research, we evaluated the pelvic diameter in women  $\leq 35$ - and  $\geq 35$  years old. Our result proved that the inlet and midpelvis diameters of <35 years old group are significantly decreased in compared to the >35 years old group.

Lin et al indicated that there was a link between increasing maternal age and tendency to cesarean section.<sup>22</sup> But in the present study, the rate of the cesarean section has been more in <35 years old.

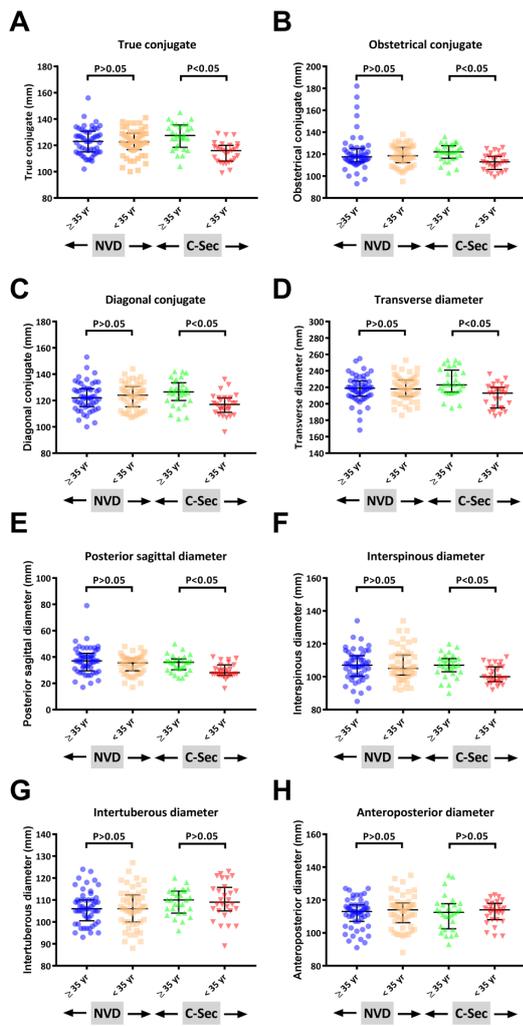


Fig. 3 Scatter plot of (A) true conjugate, (B) obstetrical conjugate, (C) diagonal conjugate, (D) transverse diameter, (E) posterior sagittal diameter, (F) interspinous diameter, (G) intertuberous diameter, and (H) anteroposterior diameter in subjects with  $\geq 35$  and  $< 35$  years of age who had undergone either NVD (normal vaginal delivery) or C-Sec (cesarean section).

## Conclusion

Regarding the results of this study, shortening of diameter of the inlet and midpelvis causes the increase in rate of cesarean section and it has been more in females  $< 35$  years old. This study need to consider more variables such as economic status and psychological conditions.

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## Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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