






Review Article

Antiphospholipid Antibodies Increase the Risk of Fetal Growth Restriction: A Systematic Meta-Analysis

Jinfeng Xu ^{1,2} Daijuan Chen ^{1,2} Yuan Tian ^{1,2} Xiaodong Wang ^{1,3}
and Bing Peng ^{1,3}

¹Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, West China Second University Hospital of Sichuan University, Chengdu, China

²West China School of Medicine, Sichuan University, Chengdu 610041, Sichuan, China

³The Key Laboratory of Birth Defects and Related Diseases of Women and Children, Sichuan University, Ministry of Education, Chengdu 610041, China

Correspondence should be addressed to Xiaodong Wang; wangxd_scu@sina.com and Bing Peng; bingpeng2020@163.com

Received 13 October 2021; Revised 30 December 2021; Accepted 6 January 2022; Published 31 January 2022

Academic Editor: Gayatri K. Athalye-Jape

Copyright © 2022 Jinfeng Xu et al. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Objective. Antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) is a chronic autoimmune disease with a high prevalence in females. Published data have identified pregnant women with APS may suffer from recurrent miscarriage, fetal death. However, the association between antiphospholipid antibody (aPL) and fetal growth restriction (FGR) remains controversial. This study aims to systematically review the literature on population-based studies investigating an association between aPL and FGR. **Methods.** The literature was searched on 1 November, 2021, using Ovid MEDLINE, Embase, and Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), following the MOOSE checklist. Study inclusion criteria focused on peer-reviewed published articles that reported an association between aPL and FGR. Quality assessment was performed based on the Newcastle-Ottawa scale. The between-study heterogeneity was assessed by the Q test. Publication bias was assessed by funnel plots. **Results.** Twenty-two studies (with 11745 pregnant women) were included in the final analysis. Pooled odds ratio for association of aPL, anticardiolipin antibodies (ACA), anti-beta2 glycoprotein 1 antibodies (β 2GPI), and FGR was 1.26 (95%CI 1.12, 1.40), 2.25 (95%CI 1.55, 2.94), and 1.31 (95% CI 1.12, 1.49), respectively. Lupus anticoagulant (LA) did not increase the chance of FGR (OR 0.82, 95%CI 0.54, 1.10). **Conclusions.** Our meta-analysis showed that aPL increased the risk of FGR. The risk of FGR varies with the aPL types. ACA and β 2GPI are strongly associated with FGR. There are currently insufficient data to support a significant relationship between LA and FGR.

1. Introduction

Antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) is an autoimmune condition, which may potentially cause adverse pregnancy outcomes. The current diagnosis of APS requires at least one laboratory and clinical criterion each [1]. Laboratory criteria require the presence of one of the antiphospholipid antibodies (aPL) detected in patient's serum or plasma on two separate occasions ≥ 12 weeks apart, mainly including anticardiolipin antibodies (ACA), lupus anticoagulant (LA), and anti-beta2 glycoprotein 1 antibodies (β 2GPI) [1]. One of the clinical criteria includes the occurrence of one or more premature births of a morphologically normal neonate before the 34th week of gestation because of placental insufficiency. One of the features of placental insufficiency is

fetal growth restriction (FGR), defined as a fetus that has not achieved his or her growth potential [2]. To assess for fetal growth restriction, four biometric measures are commonly used, generating an estimated fetal weight. Some guidelines define FGR as ultrasound estimated fetal weight of less than 10th percentile for gestational age on the reference chart [2]. FGR is the result of a variety of different maternal, fetal, and placental conditions, resulting in severe perinatal mortality and morbidity [3]. Furthermore, FGR children are at increased risk of minor cognitive deficits, poor school performance, and metabolic syndrome in adulthood [4]. APS is one of the common etiologies of FGR [2]. The incidence of FGR in APS patients is reported to be between 6.7% and 16.0% [5–8]. Children born to mothers suffering from APS are associated to FGR and low birth weights, even

undergoing prophylactic treatment with aspirin and low-dose non-fractionated heparin [9]. However, the association between aPL and FGR still remains obscure in spite of the great number of studies having focused on the issue. Therefore, we conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis to investigate an association between aPL and FGR.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Information Sources and Search Strategy. We followed the methods of Xu et al. [10]. A systematic search of the MEDLINE, EMBASE, and Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) database was conducted up to 1 November, 2021. Combinations of the following keywords and MESH search terms were used: “fetal growth restriction,” “fetal growth retardation,” “intrauterine growth retardation,” “small for gestational age,” “antiphospholipid antibody,” “anticardiolipin antibody,” “lupus anticoagulant,” and “beta2-glycoprotein I.” The search was limited to human studies published in English. Unpublished studies were not included. References of included studies and reviews were also hand searched for potential studies. A detailed description of the search strategy can be found in the Supplementary material (Appendix S1).

2.2. Study Selection. Two reviewers (JFX and YT) independently evaluated the titles and abstracts. Duplications were removed using EndNote online software. Disagreements were resolved by the third reviewer (BP). Only case-control study, cohort study, and cross-sectional study were evaluated. We excluded the studies with the following criteria: (1) presence of other autoimmune diseases; (2) patients undergoing serious internal and surgical diseases; and (3) multiple pregnancies.

2.3. Data Extraction. We used a standard form to extract data, including the journal, first author’s name, publication year, country, study design, time of study conduct, the age of patients, ascertainment method of diseases and control or comparison group selection, types of aPL, the definition of FGR, risk factors for FGR, number of population analyzed, odd ratios (ORs) or relative risks (RRs) and 95% confidence intervals (95% CIs), and statistical methods. When effect estimates for association between aPL and FGR were not listed in the original article but enough information was available, their effect estimates were calculated by STATA 12.0 statistical software. Authors were contacted if important information was lost. Data extraction was conducted independently by two of the reviewers (JFX and YT).

2.4. Primary Outcomes. The outcome indicator was the occurrence of FGR. The FGR positivity is defined as ultrasound estimated fetal weight less than 10th percentile [7] or birthweight <5th percentile [11] or birthweight <-2SD unit [12].

2.4.1. Risk of Bias, Summary Measures, and Synthesis of the Results. Two researchers (JFX and DJC) independently assessed the methodological quality of studies, using the Newcastle-Ottawa quality assessment scale (NOS) for cohort and case-control study [13]. A score of 6–9 suggested a high level of quality and low risk of bias.

We used the MOOSE checklist and PRISMA guidelines for this systematic review [14, 15]. We performed meta-analysis to calculate odd ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) using the Mantel–Haenszel method with STATA 12.0 statistical software. Heterogeneity was measured using the I^2 statistic. A random effects model was used because we assumed the presence of heterogeneity in these clinical studies with different clinical settings [16]. P values <0.05 were considered statistically significant. We conducted a sensitivity analysis to exclude these studies, which varied dramatically from all other included studies in methodology or findings. Subgroup analysis by study type was also conducted to assess the potential sources of heterogeneity. Publication bias was assessed by funnel plots and Begg’s test.

3. Results

3.1. Study Selection and Study Characteristics. 727 references were identified through electronic searches of MEDLINE ($n = 358$), Embase ($n = 265$), and Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) database ($n = 104$). After removing 173 duplicates using EndNote software (EndNote X7) and 12 duplicates manually, the titles and abstracts of 542 papers were scrutinized. The reference lists of relevant reviews were hand searched. A total of 119 articles were assessed for eligibility. Of them, 97 were excluded for the reasons, such as presence of other autoimmune diseases ($n = 56$), patients undergoing serious internal and surgical diseases ($n = 39$), and multiple pregnancies ($n = 2$). Of the 119 citations identified, 22 articles with 11745 cases (Table 1) were selected for detailed assessment [6, 7, 11, 12, 17–27, 29–34]. Details of the study selection process are shown in the PRISMA flow diagram (Figure 1). Furthermore, we evaluated risk factors for FGR of studies including hypertension, pre-eclampsia, eclampsia, diabetes mellitus, Iron deficiency anemia, renal involvement, smoking, hyperthyroidism, obesity, dyslipidaemia, and thrombosis (Table 1).

Detailed description of key characteristics for the 22 included manuscripts is shown in Table 1. With regard to study design, 16 (72.7%; 8224 cases) were cohort and 6 (27.3%; 3521 cases) were case-control studies. Sample size varied from 38 to 1,616 women. The age of patients ranged from 25 to 41.5 years. The definition of FGR from eighteen studies was ultrasound estimated fetal weight less than 10th percentile for gestational age [7], and the definition of three studies was birthweight <5th percentile [11]; one study was birthweight <-2SD [12]. The quality score of the included studies can be found in the Supplementary material (Table S1). The lowest quality score of NOS was 5, and the highest was 8. Eight studies received eight stars, three studies received seven stars, five studies received six stars, and six studies received five stars.

TABLE 1: Characteristics of included studies.

Year	Author	Country	Study design	Study period	Study Size	Age (years)	Types of aPL	NOS score	Risk factors for FGR (number)	Definition of FGR
1997	Faden et al. [17]	Italy	Cohort	1993–1994	510	29.3 ± 3.4 (21–40)	β2GPI	7	NR	Birthweight < 5th percentile
2018	Alijotas-Reig et al. [7]	European	Cohort	2010–2018	1000	35.2 ± 5.9	LA β2GPI ACA	8	Smoking 152, obesity 86, dyslipidaemia 22, DM 18	Birthweight ≤ 10th percentile
2012	Lockshin et al. [18]	USA	Cohort	2003–2011	302	32 ± 2.5	β2GPI LA	6	Thrombosis 25	Birthweight ≤ 10th percentile
1993	Julkunen et al. [12]	Finland	Cohort	1987–1991	536	41.5 (23–39)	LA	5	NR	Birthweight ≤ 2SD unit
1997	Granger and Farquharson [19]	Liverpool	Cohort	1992–1994	387	31 ± 1.3	ACA LA	5	NR	Birthweight ≤ 10th percentile
1995	Yasuda et al. [6]	Japan	Cohort	1991–1992	860	29.8 ± 4.3	ACA	8	Hyperthyroidism 8	Birthweight ≤ 10th percentile
2014	Cervera et al. [20]	European	Cohort	1999–2009	188	38 ± 3.7	aPL	5	Hypertension 3	Birthweight ≤ 10th percentile
1996	Katano et al. [21]	Japan	Cohort	1990–1992	1125	32.5 ± 4.1	ACA	8	NR	Birthweight ≤ 10th percentile
2017	Saccone et al. [22]	Italy	Cohort	2007–2016	750	28.4 ± 7.7	ACA β2GPI LA	8	Smoking 59, DM 29	Birthweight ≤ 10th percentile
2010	Cohn et al. [23]	UK	Cohort	1986–2006	693	32 ± 5.6	aPL	8	NR	Birthweight ≤ 10th percentile
2014	Madazli et al. [11]	Turkey	Cohort	2002–2011	65	28.8 ± 4.3	aPL	5	Renal involvement 9	Birthweight < 5th percentile
2007	Cleary-Goldman et al. [24]	USA	Cohort	2005–2007	151	NR	aPL	5	NR	Birthweight < 5th percentile
2016	Shinozaki et al. [25]	Japan	Cohort	2009–2014	38	32 (29–40)	aPL	7	NR	Birthweight ≤ 10th percentile
2012	Canti et al. [26]	Italy	Cohort	2001–2009	156	34.0 ± 4.5	aPL	6	NR	Birthweight ≤ 10th percentile
2014	Bouvier et al. [27]	France	Cohort	1970–2010	1313	30 (16–44)	aPL	8	PE 89	Birthweight ≤ 10th percentile
2014	Gonzalez-Echavarri et al. [28]	Spain	Cohort	2011–2013	150	NR	aPL	6	NR	Birthweight ≤ 10th percentile
1991	Polzin et al. [29]	USA	Case control	1990–1991	1616	NR	ACA	8	IDA 3, smoking 2	Birthweight ≤ 10th percentile
1994	De Carolis et al. [30]	Italy	Case control	1986–1992	365	NR	ACA	6	NR	Birthweight ≤ 10th percentile
2015	Berks et al. [31]	Netherlands	Case control	1985–2010	844	29 (17–43)	aPL	8	Eclampsia 28	Birthweight ≤ 10th percentile
1995	Schei et al. [32]	Norway	Case control	NR	414	25 (17–43)	ACA	8	Smoking 3	Birthweight ≤ 10th percentile
1999	Matthiesen et al. [33]	Sweden	Case control	1991–1992	213	28 (19–34)	ACA	5	NR	Birthweight ≤ 10th percentile
2001	Alfirevic et al. [34]	UK	Case control	1997–1998	69	29 (15–42)	ACA LA	6	Smoking 7	Birthweight ≤ 10th percentile

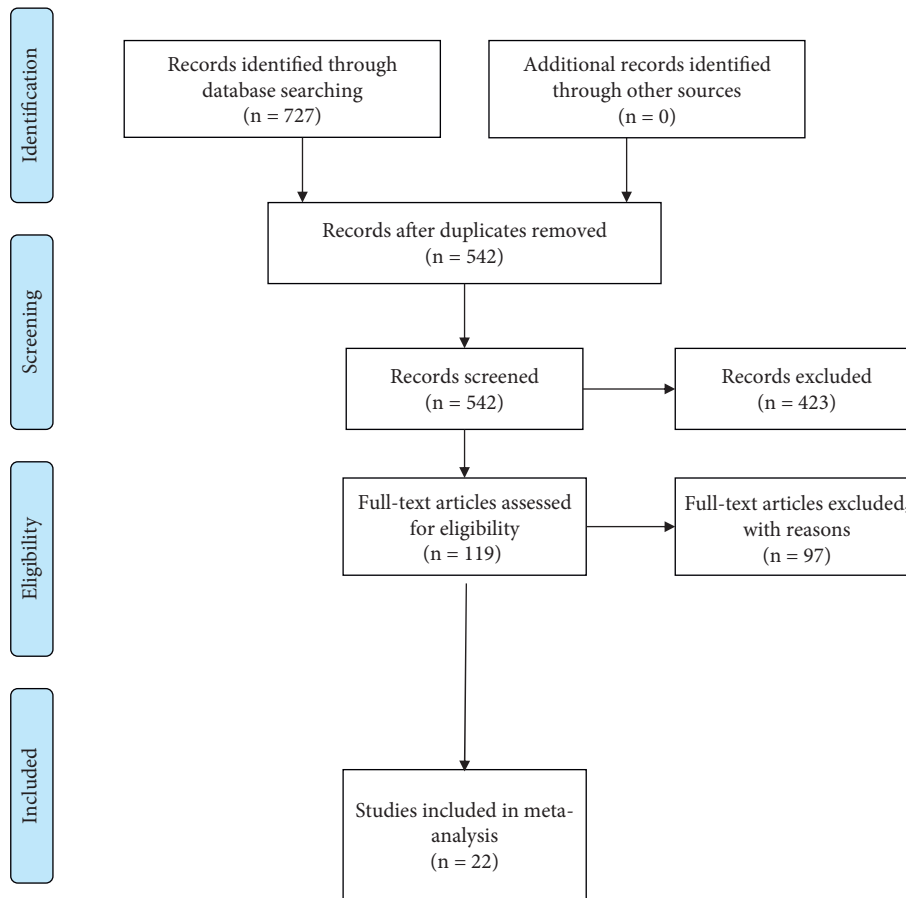


FIGURE 1: Study flow diagram.

3.2. *Risk of Bias within Studies.* Bias assessment within studies is shown in Table S1.

3.3. Synthesis of the Results

3.3.1. *Antiphospholipid Antibodies.* In 10 out of the twenty-two selected studies, statistically significant association can be seen between aPL and FGR (OR 1.26, 95%CI 1.12, 1.40) [6, 12, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27–29, 31]. Nine studies found a positive but not statistically significant relationship [7, 11, 17, 18, 26, 30, 32, 33]. Furthermore, three studies showed a non-significant association between aPL and FGR [19, 23, 34]. According to subgroup analysis of study type, aPL revealed a statistically significant association with FGR in the group of cohort studies (OR 1.25, 95%CI 1.11, 1.39). However, in the subgroup of case-control studies, aPL did not reveal a statistically significant association with FGR (OR 1.84, 95%CI 0.75, 2.94). Low heterogeneity ($I^2 = 16.1\%$, $P = 0.245$) was observed in our analysis (Figure 2).

3.4. *Anticardiolipin Antibody.* Results derived from ten included studies [6, 18, 19, 21, 22, 29, 30, 32–34] with 4976 cases suggested a statistically significant association for ACA and FGR (OR 2.25, 95%CI 1.55, 2.94) (Figure 3). Similarly, we can find the relationship between ACA and FGR among cohort studies (OR 2.35, 95%CI 1.59, 3.11). However, among

the group of case-control studies, ACA did not reveal a statistically significant association with FGR (OR 1.68, 95%CI –0.06, 3.42). No heterogeneity ($I^2 = 0\%$, $P = 0.540$) was observed in analysis of ACA.

3.5. *Anti-Beta 2 Glycoprotein 1 Antibody.* Figure 4 shows that there was a strong association between β 2GPI and FGR (OR 1.31; 95%CI 1.12, 1.49) among four cohort studies [7, 17, 18, 22] with 2562 cases. No heterogeneity ($I^2 = 0\%$, $P = 0.780$) was observed in analysis of β 2GPI.

3.6. *Lupus Anticoagulant.* Figure 5 presents the OR and 95% CI for studies about LA. All studies for inclusion [7, 12, 18, 19, 29, 34–36] demonstrated that LA did not increase the chance of FGR (OR 0.82, 95%CI 0.54, 1.10), only two studies [12, 35] reported statistically significant associations, and six studies [7, 18, 19, 29, 34, 36] did not report statistically significant associations. The heterogeneity among studies was slightly significant ($I^2 = 50.3\%$, $P = 0.05$).

3.7. *Publication Bias.* Funnel plots were used to explore the publication bias of the included studies (Figures S1A–S1C). Funnel plot for aPL, ACA, and LA showed minor asymmetry, and Begg's test (Figures S2A–S2D) was not significant with $P = 1.000$, $P = 0.721$, $P = 0.734$, and $P = 1.000$, respectively.

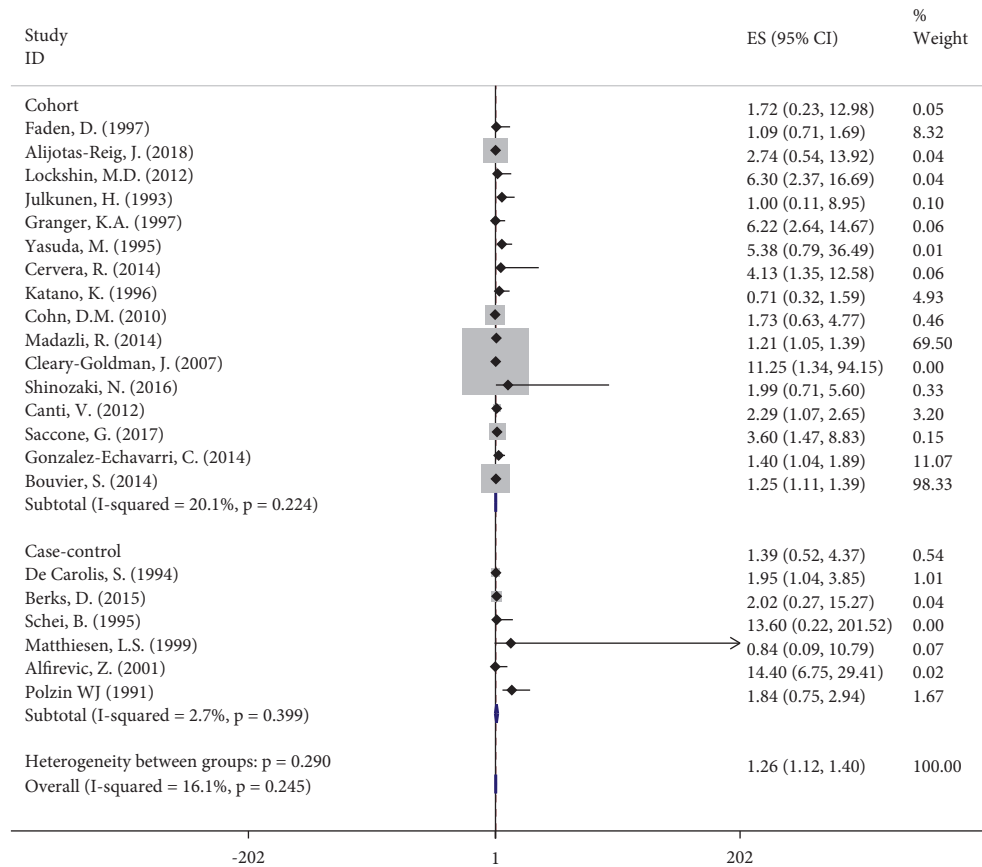


FIGURE 2: Meta-analysis of all studies of participants with antiphospholipid antibody positivity. OR, odds ratio; 95% CI, 95% confidence interval.

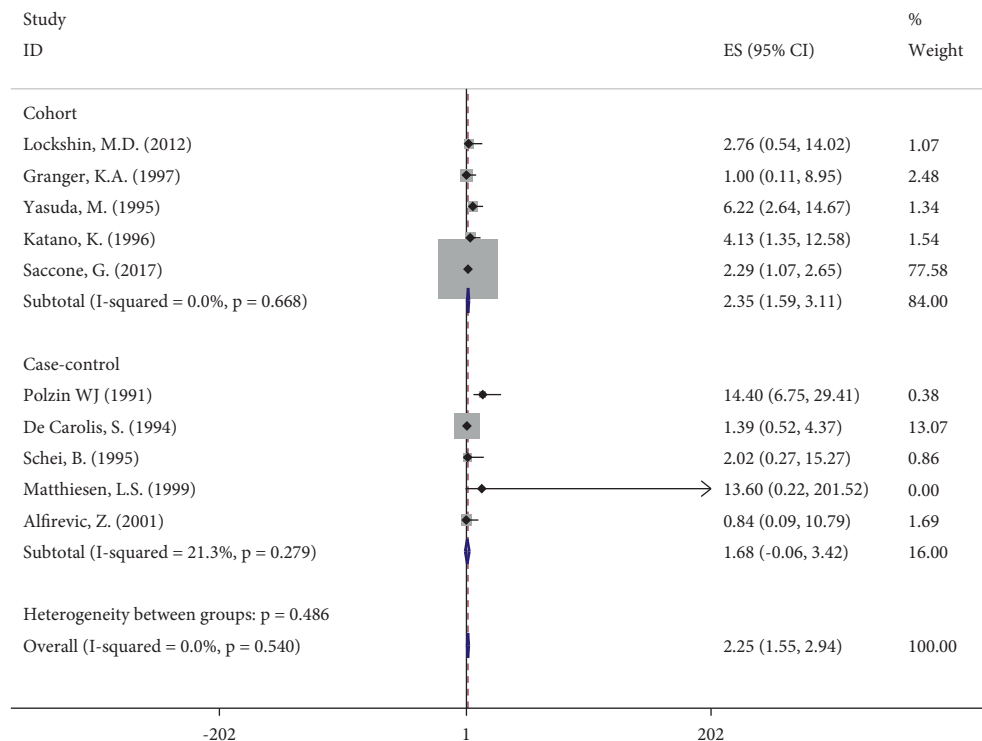


FIGURE 3: Meta-analysis of all studies of participants with anticardiolipin antibody positivity. OR, odds ratio; 95% CI, 95% confidence interval.

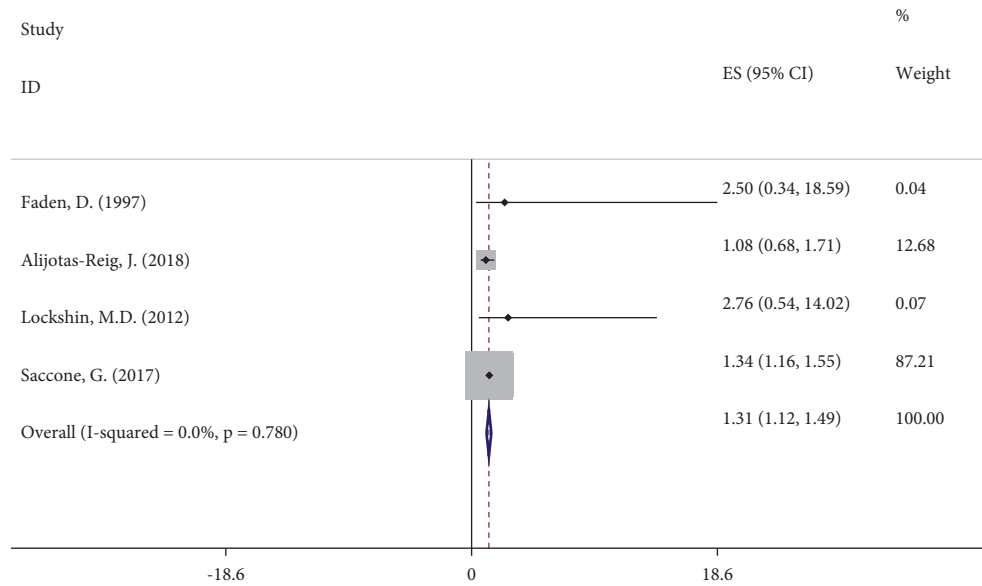


FIGURE 4: Meta-analysis of all studies of participants with anti-beta2 glycoprotein 1 antibody positivity. OR, odds ratio; 95% CI, 95% confidence interval.

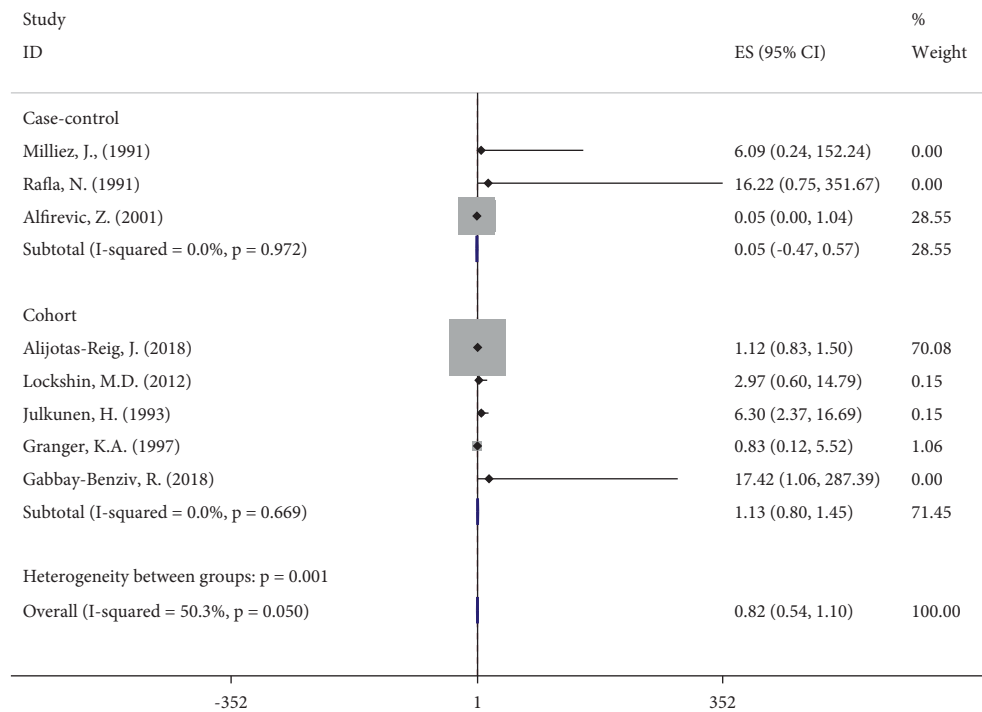


FIGURE 5: Meta-analysis of all studies of participants with lupus anticoagulant positivity. OR, odds ratio; 95% CI, 95% confidence interval.

3.8. *Sensitivity Analysis.* A sensitivity analysis for each meta-analysis with at least three studies was conducted. Within each meta-analysis, each study was taken out, respectively, to assess for its influence on the overall risk estimates.

4. Discussion

The association of FGR with APS has been reported by some studies [6, 37–39]. One case-control study [21] demonstrated that aPL positivity increased the risk of FGR by approximately

twofold compared to controls. Similarly, Spegiarin et al. reported that newborns born to mothers suffering from APS were associated with FGR and low birth weight [9]. The rate of FGR varied between 16.1% and 51.3% [40–44]. The morbidity and mortality associated with FGR and fetal death represent a significant disease burden for women and their children. However, few studies have examined the association between aPL and FGR in a systematic manner.

In this systematic review and meta-analysis, we aimed to provide a comprehensive overview of available evidence on

the association between aPL and FGR. The aPL refers to three tests including ACA, LA, and β 2GP1. In the present study, we demonstrated that women with aPL positivity have a higher risk of FGR. According to our analysis, the presence of aPL increases the odds of FGR 1.26 times (95%CI 1.12, 1.40). This is concordant with recently published data by Högdén et al. showing that the persistent presence of aPL is associated with FGR [20, 37]. Apart from thrombosis, the complement system seems to mediate aPL-related FGR [45]. Some reported that mice infused with aPL had exhibited FGR with a 45% decrease in fetal weight [46], while mice with complement deficiency showed protection against aPL-induced pregnancy complications. aPL positivity was associated with higher rates of FGR [22], emphasizing the need for a multispecialty approach in the care of these patients with respect to close monitoring and early recognition of clinical signs of FGR [47].

Screening for ACA is most commonly used in clinical practice as one of the criteria for classification of APS. Some studies reported that the incidence of FGR was higher in positive ACA than in negative ACA cases [38, 48]. The positive predictive values for FGR of a positive result were 38.0% for IgG ACA [38]. Our study confirms these findings. According to our analysis, ACA is the strongest risk factor for FGR among the aPL (OR 2.25, 95%CI 1.55, 2.94). The cause of FGR might be related to vascular constriction and thromboses of the placenta. ACA inhibited the production of prostacyclin, which is a potent vasodilator and an inhibitor of platelet aggregation [49]. Other mechanisms for ACA-mediated damage may also attribute to obstetric complications, such as decreased production of IL-3 in maternal plasma, possible interference of aPL with signal transduction in trophoblast cells, and prevention of hormone production by the placenta [50].

β 2GP1 are rarely the sole antibodies detected in patients with clinical features of APS. However, it is a main target of antiphospholipid antibodies, playing a role in pathogenesis of adverse obstetric outcomes [1]. Saccone et al. suggested that β 2GP1 are the ones associated with the lowest live birth rate and highest incidences of FGR, very preterm FGR, and stillbirth compared with ACA or with LA alone [22]. We found, in agreement with previous reports, a strong association between β 2GP1 and FGR (OR 1.31; 95% CI 1.12, 1.49) among four cohort studies [7, 17, 18, 22]. We believe that early screening for β 2GP1 may be beneficial to APS patients who have a history of FGR.

Data from a case-control study of 2257 pregnancies reported that significantly more women positive for LA had pregnancies complicated by FGR compared with women who were LA negative [51]. Furthermore, a meta-analysis concluded that LA positivity increases the odds of FGR 4.65 times (95%CI 1.29–16.71) [52]. Despite pooling data from 8 studies, lack of adequate power has remained a serious limiting factor in our ability to draw a firm conclusion on the association between LA and FGR (OR 0.82, 95%CI 0.54, 1.10). Furthermore, although subgroup analysis had been conducted, both cohort and case-control groups supported a surprising lack of correlation between LA and FGR. In contrast, based on a prospective multicenter observational study, LA positivity was reported as a predictor of adverse

pregnancy outcomes regardless of the association with ACA or β 2GP1 positivity [18]. Therefore, further large multicenter studies are warranted to investigate the association.

4.1. Management of aPL Positivity during Pregnancy. Currently, the treatment strategies to prevent APS-related obstetric complications include antiplatelet (low-dose aspirin) [53], anticoagulant (unfractionated heparin; low molecular weight heparin) [53], and/or immunomodulatory therapies (hydroxychloroquine and corticosteroids) [54, 55]. For refractory obstetric APS, more and more evidence indicates the use of intravenous immunoglobulins [56] or plasmapheresis [57].

4.2. Strengths and Limitations. Our study is the most comprehensive review evaluating the association between aPL and FGR by the type of aPL. Also, we conducted separate meta-analyses by the types of aPL. Furthermore, we evaluated risk factors for FGR of studies included. Finally, half of the included studies were published after 2010, suggesting a minor effect of publication years. Furthermore, we evaluated risk factors for FGR of studies included. However, our study also has some limitations. Firstly, some included studies had limited number of FGR cases, which might generate spurious associations. Additionally, most patients with FGR were treated with drugs like aspirin and heparin, which might lead to the underestimation of risk. Finally, different definitions of FGR can cause more variations. Therefore, caution is needed when interpreting the results.

Recently, a systematic review and meta-analysis evaluated pregnancy outcomes in patients with APS [58]. However, their search was up to 2016 and had a small number of studies with eight studies included. Furthermore, although the total number of participants with APS was large, the large population size of the only one study instantly might lead to a higher heterogeneity in the meta-analysis [59].

5. Conclusions

Our meta-analysis showed that aPL positivity increased the risk of FGR. Furthermore, the risk of FGR varies with the aPL antibody type. Therefore, it is necessary to measure aPL when FGR occurs. Women who have experienced adverse pregnancy outcomes, particularly severe FGR, should be screened for the presence of aPL. In order to generate the best evidence, we recommend future population-based studies to further investigate the association between aPL and FGR by adopting a prospective cohort study approach with large study populations, carefully selected disease-free controls, good adjustment for potential confounding factors, and longer duration of follow-up through multiple pregnancies.

Data Availability

The data that support the findings of this study are included in this article and available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Supplementary Materials

Appendix S1: search strategy. Table S1: the Newcastle-Ottawa quality assessment scale score of each included study. Figure S1A: funnel plot of all studies positive for antiphospholipid antibodies. Figure S1B: funnel plot of all studies positive for anticardiolipin antibodies. Figure S1C: funnel plot of all studies positive for lupus anticoagulant. Figure S2A: Begg's test of antiphospholipid antibodies. Figure S2B: Begg's test of anticardiolipin antibodies. Figure S2C: Begg's test of anti-beta2 glycoprotein 1 antibodies. Figure S2D: Begg's test of lupus anticoagulant. (*Supplementary Materials*)

References

- [1] S. Miyakis, M. D. Lockshin, T. Atsumi et al., "International consensus statement on an update of the classification criteria for definite antiphospholipid syndrome (APS)," *Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis*, vol. 4, no. 2, pp. 295–306, 2006.
- [2] ACOG Practice Bulletin, "Fetal growth restriction," *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, vol. 133, no. 2, pp. e97–e109, 2019.
- [3] J. A. Copel and M. O. Bahtiyar, "A practical approach to fetal growth restriction," *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, vol. 123, no. 5, pp. 1057–1069, 2014.
- [4] D. W. Branch, R. M. Silver, J. L. Blackwell, J. C. Reading, and J. R. Scott, "Outcome of treated pregnancies in women with antiphospholipid syndrome: an update of the Utah experience," *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, vol. 80, no. 4, pp. 614–620, 1992.
- [5] W. H. Kutteh, "Antiphospholipid antibody-associated recurrent pregnancy loss: treatment with heparin and low-dose aspirin is superior to low-dose aspirin alone," *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, vol. 174, no. 5, pp. 1584–1589, 1996.
- [6] M. Yasuda, K. Takakuwa, A. Tokunaga, and K. Tanaka, "Prospective studies of the association between anticardiolipin antibody and outcome of pregnancy," *Obstetrics and gynecology*, vol. 86, no. 4 Pt 1, pp. 555–559, 1995.
- [7] J. Alijotas-Reig, E. Esteve-Valverde, R. Ferrer-Oliveras et al., "The European registry on obstetric antiphospholipid syndrome (euroaps): a survey of 1000 consecutive cases," *Autoimmunity Reviews*, vol. 18, no. 4, pp. 406–414, 2019.
- [8] Z. Zhou, J. Teng, Y. Sun et al., "Characteristics of pregnancy complications and treatment in obstetric antiphospholipid syndrome in China," *Clinical Rheumatology*, vol. 38, no. 11, pp. 3161–3168, 2019.
- [9] L. C. Spegiorin, E. A. Galão, J. M. De Godoy, L. B. Bagarelli, and A. H. Olini, "Antiphospholipid antibodies and growth retardation in intrauterine development," *Prague Medical Report*, vol. 108, no. 2, pp. 185–190, 2007.
- [10] J. Xu, D. Chen, X. Duan, L. Li, Y. Tang, and B. Peng, "The association between antiphospholipid antibodies and late fetal loss: a systematic review and meta-analysis," *Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica*, vol. 98, no. 12, pp. 1523–1533, 2019.
- [11] R. Madazli, M. A. Yuksel, M. Oncul, M. Imamoglu, and H. Yilmaz, "Obstetric outcomes and prognostic factors of lupus pregnancies," *Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics*, vol. 289, no. 1, pp. 49–53, 2014.
- [12] H. Julkunen, T. Jouhikainen, R. Kaaja et al., "Fetal outcome in lupus pregnancy: a retrospective case-control study of 242 pregnancies in 112 patients," *Lupus*, vol. 2, no. 2, pp. 125–131, 1993.
- [13] G. Wells, "The newcastle-ottawa Scale (NOS) for assessing the quality of non-randomised studies in meta-analyses," in *Symposium on Systematic Reviews: Beyond the Basics*, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Ottawa, Canada, 2014.
- [14] D. Moher, A. Liberati, J. Tetzlaff, and D. G. Altman, "Preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses: the PRISMA statement," *International Journal of Surgery*, vol. 8, no. 5, pp. 336–341, 2010.
- [15] D. F. Stroup, "Meta-analysis of observational studies in EpidemiologyA proposal for reporting," *JAMA*, vol. 283, no. 15, pp. 2008–2012, 2000.
- [16] J. P. T. Higgins, *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions*, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., New York, NY, USA, 2019.
- [17] D. Faden, A. Tincani, P. Tanzi et al., "Anti-beta 2 glycoprotein I antibodies in a general obstetric population: preliminary results on the prevalence and correlation with pregnancy outcome. Anti-β2 glycoprotein I antibodies are associated with some obstetrical complications, mainly preeclampsia-eclampsia," *European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology*, vol. 73, no. 1, pp. 37–42, 1997.
- [18] M. D. Lockshin, M. Kim, C. A. Laskin et al., "Prediction of adverse pregnancy outcome by the presence of lupus anticoagulant, but not anticardiolipin antibody, in patients with antiphospholipid antibodies," *Arthritis & Rheumatism*, vol. 64, no. 7, pp. 2311–2318, 2012.
- [19] K. Granger and R. Farquharson, "Review: obstetric outcome in antiphospholipid syndrome," *Lupus*, vol. 6, no. 6, pp. 509–513, 1997.
- [20] R. Cervera, R. Serrano, G. J. Pons-Estel et al., "Morbidity and mortality in the antiphospholipid syndrome during a 10-year period: a multicentre prospective study of 1000 patients," *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*, vol. 74, no. 6, pp. 1011–1018, 2015.
- [21] K. Katano, K. Aoki, H. Sasa, M. Ogasawara, E. Matsuura, and Y. Yagami, "2-Glycoprotein I-dependent anticardiolipin antibodies as a predictor of adverse pregnancy outcomes in healthy pregnant women," *Human Reproduction*, vol. 11, no. 3, pp. 509–512, 1996.
- [22] G. Saccone, V. Berghella, G. M. Maruotti et al., "Antiphospholipid antibody profile based obstetric outcomes of primary antiphospholipid syndrome: the PREGNANTS study," *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, vol. 216, no. 5, pp. 525–e12, 2017.
- [23] D. M. Cohn, M. Goddijn, S. Middeldorp, J. C. Korevaar, F. Dawood, and R. G. Farquharson, "Recurrent miscarriage and antiphospholipid antibodies: prognosis of subsequent pregnancy," *Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis*, vol. 8, no. 10, pp. 2208–2213, 2010.
- [24] J. Cleary-Goldman, B. Bettes, J. N. Robinson, E. Norwitz, and J. Schulkin, "Thrombophilia and the obstetric patient," *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, vol. 110, no. 3, pp. 669–674, 2007.
- [25] N. Shinozaki, Y. Ebina, M. Deguchi, K. Tanimura, M. Morizane, and H. Yamada, "Protein S deficiency complicated pregnancy in women with recurrent pregnancy loss," *Gynecological Endocrinology*, vol. 32, no. 8, pp. 672–674, 2016.
- [26] V. Canti, M. T. Castiglioni, S. Rosa et al., "Pregnancy outcomes in patients with systemic autoimmunity," *Autoimmunity*, vol. 45, no. 2, pp. 169–175, 2012.

- [27] S. Bouvier, É. Cochery-Nouvellon, G. Lavigne-Lissalde et al., "Comparative incidence of pregnancy outcomes in treated obstetric antiphospholipid syndrome: the NOH-APS observational study," *Blood*, vol. 123, no. 3, pp. 404–413, 2014.
- [28] C. Gonzalez-Echavarri, I. Villar, A. Ugarte, R. Larrieta, and G. Ruiz-Irastorza, "Prevalence and significance of persistently positive antiphospholipid antibodies in women with preeclampsia," *The Journal of Rheumatology*, vol. 42, no. 2, pp. 210–213, 2015.
- [29] W. J. Polzin, J. N. Kopelman, R. D. Robinson, J. A. Read, and K. Brady, "The association of antiphospholipid antibodies with pregnancies complicated by fetal growth restriction," *Obstetrics and gynecology*, vol. 78, no. 6, pp. 1108–1111, 1991.
- [30] S. De Carolis, A. Caruso, S. Ferrazzani, B. Carducci, L. De Santis, and S. Mancuso, "Poor pregnancy outcome and anticardiolipin antibodies," *Fetal Diagnosis and Therapy*, vol. 9, no. 5, pp. 296–299, 1994.
- [31] D. Berks, J. J. Duvekot, H. Basalan, M. P. M. De Maat, E. A. P. Steegers, and W. Visser, "Associations between phenotypes of preeclampsia and thrombophilia," *European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology*, vol. 194, pp. 199–205, 2015.
- [32] B. Schei, M. Østensen, T. Moen, G. Jacobsen, and L. S. Bakketeig, "Can maternal antiphospholipid antibodies predict the birth of a small-for-gestational age child?" *Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica*, vol. 74, no. 6, pp. 425–428, 1995.
- [33] L. S. Matthiesen, G. Berg, J. Ernerudh, and T. Skogh, "A prospective study on the occurrence of autoantibodies in low-risk pregnancies," *European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology*, vol. 83, no. 1, pp. 21–26, 1999.
- [34] Z. Alfrevic, H. A. Mousa, V. Martlew, L. Briscoe, M. Perez-Casal, and C. H. Toh, "Postnatal screening for thrombophilia in women with severe pregnancy complications," *Obstetrics and gynecology*, vol. 97, no. 5 Pt 1, pp. 753–759, 2001.
- [35] R. Gabbay-Benziv, H. Zafrir-Danieli, D. Blickstein, A. Shmueli, L. Salman, and E. Hadar, "Antiphospholipid syndrome characteristics and adverse pregnancy outcomes after 20 weeks of pregnancy," *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*, vol. 142, no. 2, pp. 214–220, 2018.
- [36] J. Milliez, F. Lelong, N. Bayani et al., "The prevalence of autoantibodies during third-trimester pregnancy complicated by hypertension or idiopathic fetal growth retardation," *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, vol. 165, no. 1, pp. 51–56, 1991.
- [37] A. Högdén, A. Antovic, E. Berg, K. Bremme, and R. Chairati, "Obstetric outcomes in patients with primary thrombotic and obstetric antiphospholipid syndrome and its relation to the antiphospholipid antibody profile," *Lupus*, vol. 28, no. 7, pp. 868–877, 2019.
- [38] D. W. Branch, T. F. Porter, L. Rittenhouse et al., "Antiphospholipid antibodies in women at risk for preeclampsia," *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, vol. 184, no. 5, pp. 825–834, 2001.
- [39] H. J. Out, H. W. Bruinse, G. C. M. L. Christiaens et al., "A prospective, controlled multicenter study on the obstetric risks of pregnant women with antiphospholipid antibodies," *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, vol. 167, no. 1, pp. 26–32, 1992.
- [40] J. Gardosi, V. Madurasinghe, M. Williams, A. Malik, and A. Francis, "Maternal and fetal risk factors for stillbirth: population based study," *BMJ*, vol. 346, no. jan24 3, Article ID f108, 2013.
- [41] P. G. Lindqvist and J. Molin, "Does antenatal identification of small-for-gestational age fetuses significantly improve their outcome?" *Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology*, vol. 25, no. 3, pp. 258–264, 2005.
- [42] T. Stacey, J. M. D. Thompson, E. A. Mitchell, J. M. Zuccollo, A. J. Ekeroma, and L. M. E. Mccowan, "Antenatal care, identification of suboptimal fetal growth and risk of late stillbirth: findings from the Auckland Stillbirth Study," *The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, vol. 52, no. 3, pp. 242–247, 2012.
- [43] A. Ego, I. Monier, K. Skaare, and J. Zeitlin, "Antenatal detection of fetal growth restriction and risk of stillbirth: population-based case-control study," *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology*, vol. 55, no. 5, pp. 613–620, 2020.
- [44] J. Alijotas-Reig, E. Esteve-Valverde, R. Ferrer-Oliveras et al., "Comparative study of obstetric antiphospholipid syndrome (OAPS) and non-criteria obstetric APS (NC-OAPS): report of 1640 cases from the EUROAPS registry," *Rheumatology*, vol. 59, no. 6, pp. 1306–1314, 2020.
- [45] G. Ruiz-Irastorza, M. Crowther, W. Branch, and M. A. Khamashta, "Antiphospholipid syndrome," *The Lancet*, vol. 376, no. 9751, pp. 1498–1509, 2010.
- [46] G. A. Aydın, G. Özgen, and O. Görükmez, "The role of genetic mutations in intrahepatic cholestasis of pregnancy," *Taiwanese Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*, vol. 59, no. 5, pp. 706–710, 2020.
- [47] M. L. Urban, A. Bettiol, I. Mattioli et al., "Comparison of treatments for the prevention of fetal growth restriction in obstetric antiphospholipid syndrome: a systematic review and network meta-analysis," *Internal and Emergency Medicine*, vol. 16, no. 5, pp. 1357–1367, 2021.
- [48] T. Yamamoto, S. Yoshimura, Y. Geshi et al., "Measurement of antiphospholipid antibody by ELISA using purified beta 2-glycoprotein I in preeclampsia," *Clinical and Experimental Immunology*, vol. 94, no. 1, pp. 196–200, 1993.
- [49] L. Carreras, S. Machin, R. Deman et al., "Arterial thrombosis, intrauterine death and "lupus" anticoagulant: detection of immunoglobulin interfering with prostacyclin formation," *The Lancet*, vol. 317, no. 8214, pp. 244–246, 1981.
- [50] S. B. Cohen, "Anti-cardiolipin antibodies in fetal blood and amniotic fluid derived from patients with the anti-phospholipid syndrome," *Human Reproduction*, vol. 15, no. 5, pp. 1170–1172, 2000.
- [51] C. A. Clark, J. Davidovits, K. A. Spitzer, and C. A. Laskin, "The lupus anticoagulant: results from 2257 patients attending a high-risk pregnancy clinic," *Blood*, vol. 122, no. 3, pp. 341–347, 2013.
- [52] K. Abou-Nassar, M. Carrier, T. Ramsay, and M. A. Rodger, "The association between antiphospholipid antibodies and placenta mediated complications: a systematic review and meta-analysis," *Thrombosis Research*, vol. 128, no. 1, pp. 77–85, 2011.
- [53] M. G. Tektonidou, L. Andreoli, M. Limper, A. Tincani, and M. M. Ward, "Management of thrombotic and obstetric antiphospholipid syndrome: a systematic literature review informing the EULAR recommendations for the management of antiphospholipid syndrome in adults," *RMD Open*, vol. 5, no. 1, Article ID e000924, 2019.
- [54] S. De Carolis, A. Botta, S. Salvi et al., "Is there any role for the hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) in refractory obstetrical antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) treatment?" *Autoimmunity Reviews*, vol. 14, no. 9, pp. 760–762, 2015.
- [55] C. Belizna, F. Pregolato, S. Abad et al., "HIBISCUS: hydroxychloroquine for the secondary prevention of thrombotic and obstetrical events in primary antiphospholipid syndrome," *Autoimmunity Reviews*, vol. 17, no. 12, pp. 1153–1168, 2018.

- [56] M. L. Urban, A. Bettioli, C. Serena et al., "Intravenous immunoglobulin for the secondary prevention of stillbirth in obstetric antiphospholipid syndrome: a case series and systematic review of literature," *Autoimmunity Reviews*, vol. 19, no. 9, Article ID 102620, 2020.
- [57] A. Ruffatti, P. Marson, V. Pengo et al., "Plasma exchange in the management of high risk pregnant patients with primary antiphospholipid syndrome. A report of 9 cases and a review of the literature," *Autoimmunity Reviews*, vol. 6, no. 3, pp. 196–202, 2007.
- [58] L. Liu and D. Sun, "Pregnancy outcomes in patients with primary antiphospholipid syndrome," *Medicine*, vol. 98, no. 20, Article ID e15733, 2019.
- [59] G. Rücker, G. Schwarzer, J. R. Carpenter, and M. Schumacher, "Undue reliance on I(2) in assessing heterogeneity may mislead," *BMC Medical Research Methodology*, vol. 879 pages, 2008.