TABLE 2. Comparison of serum relaxin levels in participants with preeclampsia and normotensive pregnant women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANALYTE</th>
<th>NORMOTENSIVE PARTICIPANTS</th>
<th>PREECLAMPTIC PARTICIPANTS</th>
<th>T-STATISTICS</th>
<th>P-VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serum relaxin (mean ± SD) ng/ml</td>
<td>0.42±0.05ng/ml</td>
<td>0.24±0.03ng/ml</td>
<td>0.376</td>
<td>&lt;0.001*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Student T-test,

Table 3. One-way analysis of variance in mean serum relaxin across the study groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NORMOTENSIVE N=90</th>
<th>MILD PREECLAMPSIA N=48</th>
<th>SEVERE PREECLAMPSIA N=42</th>
<th>P-VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serum Relaxin (mean ± SD) ng/ml</td>
<td>0.42±0.05</td>
<td>0.24±0.02</td>
<td>0.23±0.01</td>
<td>0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANOVA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. Post-hoc Bonferroni pair-wise comparison of serum relaxin levels among the three groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PREECLAMPSIA STATUS</th>
<th>NORMOTENSIVE N=90</th>
<th>MILD PREECLAMPSIA N=48</th>
<th>P-VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mild (N=48)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe (N=42)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001*</td>
<td>0.271*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The clinical implication of this finding may be that relaxin if done routinely in high risk pregnant women possibly across trimesters may be used to identify women at risk of developing the disease hence the need to institute appropriate measures in its prevention.

**Study limitations**

This is a hospital-based study, therefore, the finding may not be a true representation of the general obstetric population in Lagos.

We were limited also by the fact that only a single measurement of serum relaxin was available for each woman rendering us unable to examine inter-individual differences in the analytes variation during each trimester of pregnancy.

**Strength of study**

This is an analytical cross sectional study that involved a relatively large sample size when compared with other similar studies.

All samples were analysed at the same time by a senior laboratory scientist at the same laboratory. The quality control was ensured throughout this study.