

PubMed

**Format:** Abstract**Full text links**J Trace Elem Med Biol. 2007;21(1):17-21. Epub 2006 Dec 18.

Elevated serum copper levels in women with a history of post-partum depression.

Crayton JW¹, Walsh WJ.

Author information

Abstract

Previous observations suggested that there may be an association between elevated serum copper (Cu) levels and post-partum depression (PPD). In this study, we examined Zn and Cu levels in women with completed pregnancies who had a history of PPD and compared them to women who did not have depression, and to women who reported having been depressed, but without a history of PPD. Cu levels were significantly higher in women having a history of PPD compared both to non-depressed women and to depressed women without a history of PPD. The mean serum Cu level of 78 women with a history of PPD was 131+/-39microg/dL compared with 111+/-25microg/dL in 148 women without such a history, and 106+/-20microg/dL in non-depressed controls ($p<0.001$). Zn levels did not differ across the three groups. Cu/Zn ratios were significantly higher in the PPD-history-positive group, due to the significant differences in Cu levels. Cu and Zn levels were not significantly different in depressed and non-depressed men, nor between non-depressed women and non-depressed men. Depressed women had higher Cu, but not Zn, levels compared with men. The nature of the association between elevated Cu values and PPD is, as yet, unknown; however Cu has roles in a variety of physiological systems that may be implicated in the development of PPD.

Comment in

[Raised serum copper results does not mean excess body copper.](#) [J Trace Elem Med Biol. 2007]PMID: 17317521 DOI: [10.1016/j.jtemb.2006.10.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtemb.2006.10.001)

[Indexed for MEDLINE]

MeSH terms, Substances



File failed to load: file:///Users/cfp/Desktop/WRI%20supportive%20articles/Elevated%20serum%20copper%20levels%20in%20women%20with%20a%20history%20of%20post-partum%20depress

LinkOut - more resources



File failed to load: file:///Users/cfp/Desktop/WRI%20supportive%20articles/Elevated%20serum%20copper%20levels%20in%20women%20with%20a%20history%20of%20post-partum%20depres: