



Journal of Andrology, Vol 7, Issue 2 77-82, Copyright © 1986 by The American Society of Andrology

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Possible significance of transferrin levels in seminal plasma of fertile and infertile men

C. Foresta, F. Manoni, V. Businaro, C. Donadel, M. Indino and C. Scandellari

Human seminal plasma contains large amounts of transferrin, which is a protein secreted mostly by Sertoli cells. It has been suggested that the concentration of transferrin may serve as a possible clinical marker of Sertoli cell function. Therefore the concentration of this protein in human seminal plasma from fertile and infertile men has been evaluated in order to find a relationship between transferrin concentrations and human semen parameters and plasma FSH levels. Findings show that seminal transferrin in subjects with oligozoospermia or azoospermia is significantly lower than in controls, and that it is strongly related to sperm count. Results also indicate that transferrin secretion can be impaired when plasma FSH levels are still normal, suggesting that seminal transferrin is an early and specific marker of Sertoli cell function. These results, however, do not clarify whether impairment of transferrin secretion by Sertoli cells is due to an organic dysfunction or to an organic secretory alteration.

This Article

- ▶ [Full Text \(PDF\)](#)
- ▶ [Alert me when this article is cited](#)
- ▶ [Alert me if a correction is posted](#)

Services

- ▶ [Similar articles in this journal](#)
- ▶ [Similar articles in PubMed](#)
- ▶ [Alert me to new issues of the journal](#)
- ▶ [Download to citation manager](#)

Citing Articles

- ▶ [Citing Articles via Google Scholar](#)

Google Scholar

- ▶ [Articles by Foresta, C.](#)
- ▶ [Articles by Scandellari, C.](#)
- ▶ [Search for Related Content](#)

PubMed

- ▶ [PubMed Citation](#)
- ▶ [Articles by Foresta, C.](#)
- ▶ [Articles by Scandellari, C.](#)