

**Table 4.** Assessment of endothelial function in women with PCOS- tests of peripheral circulation and inflammatory markers

Authors	Subjects (n)	Age (years) (mean)	Method	Findings
Mather et al (JCEM) 2000	18 obese PCOS 19 controls	32	Assessment of endothelium dependent and independent (response to nitroglycerin) vascular reactivity using brachial artery ultrasound	No difference between groups
Paradisi et al 2001	12 obese PCOS 13 obese controls	PCOS: 29 controls: 35	Assessment of endothelium dependent vasodilation by measuring leg blood flow responses to intrafemoral artery infusions of methacholine chloride and to euglycemic hyperinsulinaemia	Approximately 50% reduction in endothelium dependent vasodilation and resistance to the vasodilating action of insulin among women with PCOS
Diamanti- Kandarakis et al 2001	43 PCOS (23 obese and 20 nonobese) 17 controls (7 obese and 10 nonobese)	23	Measurement of endothelin-1	Significantly higher endothelin-1 levels among both lean and obese women with PCOS
Kelly et al 2001	17 PCOS (mean BMI 31.5 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) 15 controls (mean BMI 30.3 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	PCOS: 26 controls: 33	Measurement of CRP levels	Significantly higher CRP levels among women with PCOS
Taponen et al 2004	518 cases with oligomenorrhea/and/ or hirsutism (mean BMI 25.1 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) 1036 controls (mean BMI 24.2 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	31	Measurement of CRP levels	Significantly higher CPR levels among cases, after stratification for BMI differences are lost
Orio et al 2004	30 PCOS 30 controls All subjects had a BMI between 18 and 25	22	Assessment of endothelium dependent vascular reactivity using brachial artery ultrasound. Measurement of endothelin-1	Significantly decreased flow mediated-dilation and significantly higher endothelin-1 levels among women with PCOS.
Tarkun et al 2004	37 PCOS (mean BMI 23.8 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) 25 controls (mean BMI 22.9 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	PCOS: 23 controls: 24	Assessment of endothelium dependent and independent (response to nitroglycerin) vascular reactivity using brachial artery ultrasound. Measurement of CRP levels	Significantly decreased flow and nitroglycerin mediated-(endothelium dependent and independent) dilation and significantly higher CRP levels among women with PCOS