

Effect of Beet Powder (Beta Vulgaris L) with Fe Supplementation on Increasing Hemoglobin, Hematocrit, and Erythrocyte Levels in Pregnant Women with Anemia

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ABSTRACT

Anemia in pregnancy is a condition where the hemoglobin level in pregnant women <11.0 gr/dL. Anemia in pregnancy can cause disruption of fetal development, risk of low birth weight and premature birth. Beetroot one of the herbs can increase hemoglobin, hematocrit and erythrocyte levels.

This research aimed to prove the effect of beetroot extract increase hemoglobin, hematocrit level and erythrocytes number of pregnant women with anemia who were receiving Fe supplementation. This research was *Quasy Experiment with a pre-test-post-test with control group design*. Sample this research was 30 pregnant women, that were divided into 2 groups : the intervention group who were given beet with Fe supplementation (n = 15) and the control group was given Fe tablets (n = 15).

Supplementation of beetroot to a pregnant women with anemia who were recieved Fe supplementation could increase hemoglobin levels (p = 0,000), hematocrit levels (p = 0,000), number of erythrocytes (p = 0.001), so there were significant differences in mean delta hemoglobin levels, hematocrit, and erythrocyte counts. There were differences in hemoglobin and erythrocyte levels in the intervention and control groups before and after treatment.

Supplementation of 8 gram beetroot powder for 14 days to pregnant mother with anemia who were receive Fe tablets could increase hemoglobin and hematocrit levels, and number of erythrocytes.

Keywords : Beet Powder, Powder, Fe Supplementation, Pregnant Women

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BACKGROUND

Anemia during pregnancy according to the CDC (*Center for Disease Control and Prevention*) is a condition where the hemoglobin level in pregnant women is less than 11.0 g /dl in trimesters I and III, or where the amount of hemoglobin level is less than 10.5 g / dl in the second trimester.¹ Pregnancy is a period in which there is an increase in physiological iron necessary, which is if iron deficiency during pregnancy will cause the risk of anemia in pregnancy which results in disruption of fetal development, risk of low birth weight and premature birth.²

World Health Organization (WHO), globally the prevalence of anemia in pregnant women worldwide is 41.8%.³ Anemia in pregnant women in Indonesia based on Riskesdas in 2018 was 48.9%, where an increase of 11.8 % compared to 2013 which amounted to 37.1%. In Indonesia, anemia in pregnant women mostly occurs at the age of 15-24 years as much as 86.4%, at the age of 25-34 as much as 33.7%, as much as 33.6% occurs at age 35-44 years and as low as 24% at the age of 45 -54 years.⁴

Anemia in pregnant women often occurs due to iron deficiency because in pregnant women there is an increase in iron needs doubled due to increased blood volume without plasma volume expansion.⁵ Erythrocytes are a component of cells in the blood that function as a medium that carries hemoglobin which will carry oxygen from the lungs to the tissues. A pregnant woman who has anemia does not have enough hemoglobin in her body.⁶ Iron is needed by the body to form hemoglobin in erythrocytes in the bone marrow, to compensate for the small amount of iron that is constantly being expelled by the body, and to compensate for iron loss due to bleeding and lactation for secretion milk.⁷

Beetroot, a type of *amaranthaceae* plant containing high iron, nearly 7% which is very good to help in the formation of a baby's brain and overcome anemia.⁸ This study aims to prove the effect of beetroot powder with supplementing Fe on the levels of hemoglobin, hematocrit and erythrocytes for pregnant women.

METHOD

This type of research is a Quasy Experiment with a pre-test-post-test with control group design. The sample in this study amounted to 30 pregnant women who were divided into 2 groups, namely the intervention group (n = 15) and the control group (n = 15). The subjects in this study were third trimester pregnant women (28-36 weeks gestational age) in the work area of Welahan I Public Health Center, Jepara Regency.

The sampling technique used was *purposive sampling*, with inclusion criteria of pregnant women aged 20-35 years, pregnant women with a minimum pregnancy interval of 2 years, number of children <4, pregnant women with mild anemia Hb <11 gr% / dL, and willing to be a research respondent.

The intervention group was given 8 gram beetroot powder with Fe supplementation once a day for 14 days, while the control group was given Fe tablets once a day for 14 days. All study respondents provided *informed consent* and were willing to participate in the study voluntarily. This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Moewardi Hospital Surakarta with the number 053 / I / HREC / 2020.

The instruments used in this study were respondent characteristic questionnaires and daily intervention checklist tables while for measuring hemoglobin, hematocrit and erythrocyte counts using a hematology analyzer. The test used is the *Paired Sample T-Test* and *Independent T-Test*.

RESULT**A. Description of Beet Powder Powder with Fe Supplementation**

Table 1. Hemoatological survey before and after beetroot powder with Fe Supplementation

		Min	Max	Mean	Std Deviation
Hemoglobin	Pretest	8,60	10,20	10,1267	0,635
Levels	Posttest	10,90	13,30	11,8400	0,786
Hematocrit	Pretest	26,00	26,90	31,9400	2,870
Levels	Posttest	38,10	38,40	33,3467	2,939
Erythrocyte	Pretest	2,87	2,96	3,7267	0,345
Levels	Posttest	4,24	4,71	3,9300	0,467

**Paired T-Test*

Based on the table 1 shows the increase in hemoglobin levels is minimal before and after beetroot powder intervention with Fe supplementation is 2.3 gr / dL and 3.1 gr / dL. The minimum value of hemoglobin levels before the intervention is 8.60 gr / dL while the minimum value after the intervention is 10.90 gr / dL. The maximum value in the pretest hemoglobin level is 10.20 gr / dL and after the intervention is 13.30 gr / dL.

The minimum value on hematocrit levels before intervention is 26.00 and the minimum value after intervention is 38.10%, while the maximum value before intervention is 26.90% and after intervention is 38.40%. Hematocrit levels had a minimum increase before intervention of 12.1% and a maximum increase of 11.5%. Increasing the minimum value of erythrocytes 1.37 / uL and the maximum value of 1.75 / uL. The minimum pretest value is 2.87 / uL and posttest is 4.24 / uL. The maximum value of pretest is 2.96 / uL and posttest is 4.71 / uL.

B. Description of Fe Tablets

Table 2. Hemoatological survey before and after Fe Supplementation

		Min	Maks	Mean	Std Deviation
Hemoglobin	Pretest	8,00	10,90	10,2667	0,774
Levels	Posttest	8,80	11,80	10,5267	0,854
Hematocrit	Pretest	27,80	37,90	31,7267	2,562
Levels	Posttest	26,90	39,30	32,4333	3,167
Erythrocyte	Pretest	3,30	3,14	3,8507	0,451
Levels	Posttest	4,91	5,04	3,9233	0,525

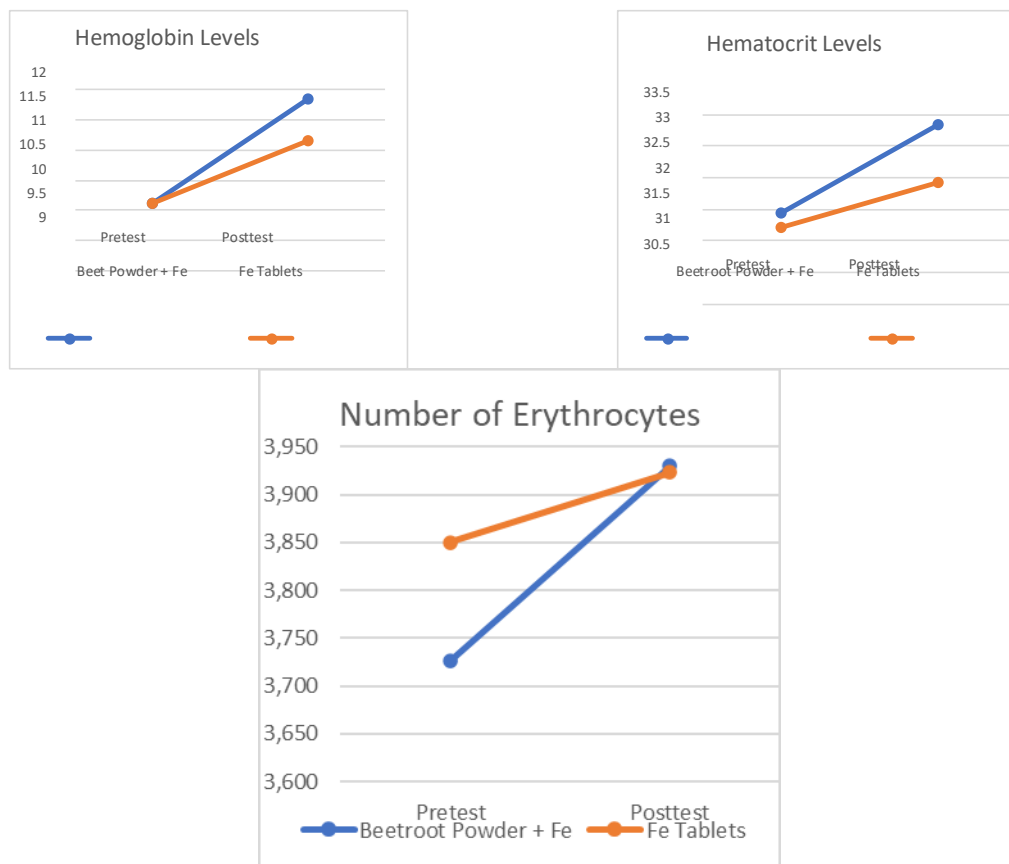
**Paired T-Test*

In the provision of Fe tablet intervention, the minimum increase in the value of hemoglobin is 0.80 gr / dL and the maximum increase in hemoglobin level is 0.90 gr / dL. At a minimum value of hematocrit levels there was no increase, but a decrease of -0.9, and a maximum increase in the value of hematocrit levels that is 1.4%. The minimal increase in erythrocytes in Fe tablet intervention was 1.61 / uL and the maximum increase was 1.91 / uL.

The minimum value of pretest hemoglobin level is 8.00 gr / dL and posttest is 8.80 gr / dL, while the maximum value at pretest is 10.90 gr / dL and the maximum value at posttest is 11.80 gr / dL. In the hematocrit level there is a minimum value

before the intervention that is 27.80% and after the intervention that is 26.90%, while the maximum value before the intervention is 37.90% and after the intervention that is 39.30%. In erythrocytes the minimum pretest value is 3.30 / uL and post test is 4.91 / uL while the maximum value at pre and post is 3.14 / uL and 5.04 / uL.

Changes in hemoglobin, hematocrit levels, and the amount of erythrocytes can be seen in the graph below:



C. Comparison of Beetroot Powder with Fe and Tablet Fe Supplementation

Table 3. The comparison of beetroot powder with Fe supplementation and Fe tablets

	Intervention	N	Mean	Std Deviation	<i>p-value</i>
Hemoglobin	Beet Powder + Fe	15	1,713	0,499	0,000
Difference	Fe Tablets	15	0,260	0,567	0,098
Hematocrit	Beet Powder + Fe	15	1,406	1,068	0,000
Difference	Fe Tablets	15	0,706	1,404	0,072
Erythrocyte	Beet Powder + Fe	15	0,203	0,176	0,000
Difference	Fe Tablets	15	0,072	0,154	0,089

Independent T-Test

The results of table 3. the *p-value* of hemoglobin, hematocrit and erythrocyte levels in beetroot powder interventions with Fe supplementation is 0,000 <0.05, meaning that there are significant differences between the average levels of hemoglobin, hematocrit and erythrocytes before and after intervention. In the Fe tablet group the *p-value* for hemoglobin was 0.098 > 0.05 where there was no significant

difference between the average before and after the Fe tablet intervention. The *p-value* of hematocrit and erythrocyte levels in Fe tablet intervention is 0.072 and 0.089 so there is no significant difference between the average before and after the intervention is given.

DISCUSSION

1. The Effect of Beet Powder with Fe Supplementation on Hemoglobin, Hematocrit and Erythrocyte Levels in Pregnant Women with Anemia

Beetroot are one of the plants that can be managed into various processed such as ice cream, jelly, donuts and others. Beetroot tastes bitter when it is made into ice cream, and when the higher the beetroot juice is made into jelly it will be ground-scented. This makes many pregnant women didn't like beetroot.⁹

Along with the development of modernization which demands practicality and ease in the use of traditional medicines, so various efforts have been made to develop the use of guava plants as medicinal plants in practical dosage forms. One alternative dosage form is effervescent powder.¹⁰ That reasons, makes researchers make innovations to make fresh beetroot into beetroot powder.

Pregnant women with anemia getting beet powder for 14 days with iron supplementation showed changes in hemoglobin levels, hematocrit and erythrocyte counts. Giving beetroot by the powder method to pregnant women is safer than extracts. Powder is a dry mixture of medicinal substances or crushed chemicals, intended for oral use or external use. The powder does not use alcohol such as butanol, ethanol and metanol in the manufacturing process, meanwhile the extraction process using butanol, ethanol and methanol in processing to become extracts.¹¹

Giving 8 grams of beet root powder with Fe supplementation for 14 days can increase hemoglobin, hematocrit and erythrocyte levels, where an increase in hemoglobin level is 1.713gr% dL, an increase in hematocrit levels of 1.406% and erythrocytes by 0.203/uL. This study was supported by Suryandari and Ossie (2015) where the provision of 500 mL beetroot juice was added by consuming Fe tablets for 7 days which was as much as 0.6gr% / dL, where hemoglobin levels before the intervention were 9.70gr% / dL and increased to 10.30 gr% / dL after being given the intervention of beetroot juice 500 mL with Fe tablets.⁸

Beetroot can increase hemoglobin levels as evidenced by the study of Suci Setyianingsih, et al in Wonorojo Village, where there is an increase in hemoglobin levels in pregnant women with anemia before given a combination of beet juice and lemon with fe tablets at an average of 10.25 g / dl, after being given a combination of beet and lemon juice with fe tablets an average of 11.35 g / dl, or an average increase of 1.1 g /dL.¹²

This plant has the Latin name is *Beta Vulgaris L* has uses for pregnant women such as folic acid 34% in the process of growth and repair of damaged cells, 13.6% fiber to prevent pregnant women from experiencing constipation, iron 7.4% as a metabolism energy and the immune system and 10.2% vitamin C as tissue repair and normalizes blood vessels and helps in the absorption of iron in the body.¹³

The results of this study indicate that administration of beetroot powder with iron supplementation can increase hemoglobin levels, hematocrit and the number of erythrocytes in pregnant women with anemia.

2. Effect of Fe tablets on hemoglobin, hematocrit and erythrocyte levels in pregnant women with anemia

In this study it was found that hemoglobin levels that were only given Fe tablets only increased by 0.260 gr% / dL, an increase in hematocrit levels of 0.706% and an increase in erythrocytes around 0.072 / uL. In the statistical test using *independent t-test*, the *p-value* of hemoglobin, hematocrit and erythrocyte values is > 0.05 , so there is no significant difference between the average before and after the intervention is given.

Based on the research Suryandari and Ossie with titled Comparison of Increased Hb Levels in Pregnant Women who were given Fe with Fe and Beets in the Work Area of South Purwokerto Public Health Center, where there was no increase in hemoglobin levels in pregnant women who were stabbed with added blood tablets, but experienced a decrease as much as 0.2 gr% / dL where the average value before being given the intervention is 11.4667 gr% / dL and after being given the intervention it becomes 11.33267 gr / dL.⁸ The provision of blood-added tablets for pregnant women has been regulated by the government in the Republic of Indonesia Minister of Health Regulation No. 88 of 2014 and the Republic of Indonesia Minister of Health Regulation No. 43 of 2016. In both regulations states that blood-added tablets must be given to women of reproductive age and pregnant women and especially for pregnant women must obtain at least 90 tablets of added blood during pregnancy.^{14,15}

However, Fe tablets can cause constipation which makes many pregnant women reluctant to consume Fe tablets during pregnancy. This has been proven in Susani Hayati's research: pregnant women who do not routinely consume Fe tablets have more constipation, namely 20 people (87%) compared to those who have constipation only 3 people (13%), while pregnant women who routinely consume Fe tablets more many experienced constipation by 52.4% compared to mothers who did not experience constipation by 47.6%.¹⁶

Consuming Fe tablets routinely causes feces color to become black and hard, thus causing constipation in pregnant women. This is coupled with the relaxation of the small muscles of the large intestine due to an increase in the hormone progesterone, enlargement and pressure on the stomach caused by enlargement of the uterus, making defecation less rare, the amount of stool decreases and making its consistency dry and hard.¹⁷

In a study so that pregnant women given blood-added tablets didn't have much effect on hemoglobin levels, hematocrit and erythrocyte counts in pregnant women compared to pregnant women who were given beetroot powder with Fe supplementation.

CONCLUSION

Supplementation of 8 gram beetroot powder for 14 days to pregnant mother with anemia who were receive Fe tablets could increase hemoglobin and hematocrit levels, and number of erythrocytes.

Society or pregnant women can use beetroot as a holistic treatment and non-pharmacological treatment in the effort and prevention of anemia in pregnant women.

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