Definitions of covariates

The diagnosis of acute histologic chorioamnionitis was based on the presence in any tissue sample (chorionic plate, amnion, umbilical cord, or chorion-decidua), of acute inflammatory change, using previously published criteria. Funisitis was defined as the presence of neutrophils in the wall of umbilical vessel or Wharton’s jelly. Clinical chorioamnionitis was diagnosed in accordance with the criteria proposed by Gibbs et al.

Analysis of various proteins in amniotic fluid

The ranges of endoglin, endostatin, IGFBP-2, IGFBP-3, IGFBP-4, IL-6, IL-8, MMP-8, MMP-9, and VEGFR-1 standard curves were 125-8000 pg/mL, 62.5-4000 pg/mL, 62.5-4000 pg/mL, 62.5-4000 pg/mL, 0.5-32 ng/mL, 9.38-600 pg/mL, 31.2-2000 pg/mL, 62.5-4000 pg/mL, 31.2-2000 pg/mL, and 125-8000 pg/mL, respectively. Prior to measurement of these proteins, the AF samples were diluted at 1:4 for MMP-8, 1:10 for endoglin, IL-6, IL-8, and, MMP-9, 1:100 for endostatin and IGFBP-4, and 1:500 for IGFBP-2, IGFBP-3 and VEGFR-1. If the protein concentrations were lower than the lowest point on the standard curve, the lowest detected values were applied for the analysis. The intra- and interassay coefficients of variation were 2.2% and 7.4% for endoglin, 1.5% and 9.2% for endostatin, 5.8% and 5.1% for IGFBP-2, 0.8% and 16.2% for IGFBP-3, 2.8% and 10.5% for IGFBP-4, 1.7% and 5.2% for IL-6, 9.1% and 14.1% for IL-8, 3.2% and 15.5% for MMP-8, 6.0% and 14.5% for MMP-9, and 2.5% and 9.8% for VEGFR-1, respectively.