

Table 2. Endocrine characteristics of the study population

	Total study population		Overweight/obese subjects		Normal weight subjects	
	Patients with PCOS (n=140)	Controls (n=40)	Patients with PCOS (n=70)	Controls (n=20)	Patients with PCOS (n=70)	Controls (n=20)
Age (years)	23.9±4.9	23.8±3.3	25.6±5.9	25.3±3.1	22.3±2.9	22.2±2.7
FSH (mIU/ml)	6.3±1.8 ^b	7.8±2.5	6.0±1.7 ^a	7.7±2.7	6.7±1.9	7.8±2.4
LH (mIU/ml)	7.5±4.7	5.9±2.9	6.6±4.1	4.7±1.5	8.3±5.1	7.1±3.4
PRL (ng/ml)	14.4±7.1	12.6±4.2	13.8±7.2	13.1±4.7	15.6±7.0	12.1±3.8
T (ng/dl)	79.1±30.3 ^c	32.9±13.9	80.3±33.5 ^c	28.0±13.7	77.9±26.7 ^c	37.8±12.8
Δ ₄ -A (ng/ml)	2.9±1.1 ^c	1.7±0.4	2.9±1.0 ^c	1.6±0.5	3.0±1.2 ^c	1.8±0.4
DHEA-S (ng/ml)	3248.5±1292.3 ^c	1943.1±848.0	3169.7±1413.4 ^c	1662.6±831.4	3328.4±1161.3 ^c	2223.6±786.9
FAI	7.87±6.30 ^c	2.01±1.19	9.83±7.42 ^c	1.97±1.41	5.88±4.09 ^c	2.06±0.94
17α-OHP (ng/ml)	1.1±0.5 ^c	0.7±0.3	1.1±0.5 ^c	0.7±0.3	1.0±0.4 ^a	0.8±0.3
SHBG (nmol/ml)	46.8±28.1 ^c	65.9±29.4	35.4±20.5 ^c	63.7835±37.8	58.3±30.1	68.0±18.2
Ovarian volume (cm ³)	8.1±3.6 ^c	5.3±1.9	8.4±3.3 ^c	5.2±1.9	7.9±3.8 ^b	5.5±1.9
Ovarian follicles	10.6±4.8 ^c	6.2±1.9	10.5±3.7 ^c	6.4±2.0	10.8±5.7 ^c	5.9±1.9

PCOS: polycystic ovary syndrome; FSH: follicle stimulating hormone; LH: luteinizing hormone; PRL: prolactin; T: testosterone; Δ₄-A: Δ₄-androstenedione; DHEA-S: dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate; FAI: free androgen index; 17α-OHP: 17α-hydroxyprogesterone; SHBG: sex hormone-binding globulin

Significant differences between women with PCOS and controls within the total population, within the overweight/obese subgroup and within the normal weight subgroup (Mann-Whitney test): a: p<0.01; b: p<0.005; c: p<0.001.