

**Table 2.** Semi-quantitative estimation for the presence of CRF, Ucn I, II and III, CRFR1, CRFR2 and CRF-BP detected by immunohistochemistry in the myocytes of human fetal heart tissues. Numbers represent the number of fetuses in each of the four grades (G), in every gestational trimester as estimated by the mother's last menstrual period (LMP), in the Group A (fetuses with no pathology)

Peptides	Grade	Gestational trimester		
		First (Total n: 0)	Second (Total n: 13)	Third (Total n: 2)
CRF	G:0			
	G:1			
	G:2			
	G:3		13	2
Ucn I	G:0			
	G:1			
	G:2			1
	G:3		13	1
Ucn II	G:0			
	G:1		5	2
	G:2		6	
	G:3		2	
Ucn III	G:0		13	2
	G:1			
	G:2			
	G:3			
CRFR1	G:0		1	
	G:1			
	G:2			
	G:3		12	2
CRFR2	G:0		1	
	G:1		2	2
	G:2		7	
	G:3		3	
CRF BP	G:0			
	G:1			
	G:2			
	G:3		13	2

n: number of fetuses.

with chromosomal abnormalities or with congenital disorders were used and antigen localization was studied by immunohistochemistry. Our samples were representative of different gestational ages allowing developmental observations, although the small number of tissues in some groups (first trimester group) limited conclusions. Nevertheless, given the rarity