

Preeclampsia

Preeclampsia is a rapidly progressive condition characterized by high blood pressure. It occurs only during pregnancy, usually after the 20th week, and in the postpartum period. It is a disorder that affects both the mother and the unborn baby. Globally, preeclampsia and other hypertensive disorders are the **LEADING CAUSE** of maternal mortality and infant prematurity.

15%

Premature births due to preeclampsia

20%

Women with severe preeclampsia develop HELLP Syndrome*

76,000

Maternal death cases attributed to preeclampsia worldwide

1 in 12

Pregnancies (5-8%) are affected by preeclampsia



* HELLP syndrome is a life-threatening pregnancy complication usually considered to be a variant of preeclampsia. Both conditions usually occur during the later stages of pregnancy, or sometimes after childbirth.

500,000

Infant deaths attributed to preeclampsia worldwide.



Symptoms

- Swelling of the face, especially around eyes
- Swelling of the hands
- Weight gain of more than 5lbs in one week
- Headache that won't go away
- Changes in vision, such as spots or flashes
- Nausea or vomiting unlike morning sickness
- Upper right belly pain
- Difficulty breathing, gasping, or panting

These symptoms do not necessarily mean preeclampsia, but are a cause of concern and require immediate medical attention.

If you have symptoms after 20 weeks, go immediately to Labor & Delivery instead of the Emergency Room.

Learn More

[Preeclampsia Foundation](#)

[March of Dimes](#)

[HELLP Syndrome](#)