

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.

Symptoms

- * Swelling of the face and hands
- * Headache that won't go away
- * Nausea or vomiting
- * Difficulty breathing
- * Sudden weight gain (2-5lbs/week)
- * Vision changes: spots
- * Upper right belly pain

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

1 in 25

Pregnancies
(2-8% worldwide) are
affected
by preeclampsia

50,000

Maternal death
cases attributed
to preeclampsia
worldwide

15-20%

Premature
births
due to
preeclampsia

10-20%

Women with severe
preeclampsia develop
HELLP Syndrome*

500,000

Infant deaths attributed to
preeclampsia worldwide.



Learn More

[Preeclampsia Foundation](#)

[March of Dimes](#)

[HELLP Syndrome](#)

[Center for Disease Control](#)

* 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 soon after childbirth.