

Preeclampsia

Complications of Pregnancy

Do you have questions?

Call our 24-hour Nurse Advice Line.

We are here to help you.



English:

(888) 275-8750

Español:

(866) 648-3537

TTY/TDD:

711

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Your Extended Family

What is preeclampsia?

Preeclampsia causes harmful high blood pressure. It usually occurs after 20 weeks of pregnancy and during the postpartum period. Many women do not have symptoms.

Preeclampsia affects the health of you and your baby.

What are the symptoms of preeclampsia?

- Swelling in your face and hands
- Sudden weight gain
- Headaches and changes in your vision
- Protein in your urine. Your provider checks your urine for protein at your prenatal visits.
- Nausea or vomiting after mid-pregnancy

Call your provider and ask for a blood pressure check.

What causes preeclampsia?

The cause is unknown. Certain things put you at risk of preeclampsia:

- You had preeclampsia in a prior pregnancy.
- You are having more than one baby.
- You have a history of high blood pressure.
- You are obese.
- You are over 40 years old or younger than 18 years old.
- You have sickle cell anemia.
- You have an autoimmune disorder.
- You have a mother, sister or aunt who had preeclampsia.



Left untreated, preeclampsia can cause harm to your organs and your brain. It can affect blood flow to your placenta that nourishes your baby.

Keep all of your prenatal care visits. It is the best way to make sure you and your baby stay healthy.