



# Eclampsia & Preeclampsia: Pregnancy Hypertensive Disorders

## Predisposed Patients

- in their teen years
- older than their mid-thirties
- in their first pregnancy
- obese
- have a prior history of preeclampsia
- diabetic



An awareness of conditions that may predispose patients to preeclampsia and eclampsia are an important baseline for recognition.



Preeclampsia is variable in its progression. Cardiovascular effects of eclampsia include vascular vasospasm that can increase the workload of the left ventricle. The patient may experience blood clots. Pedal edema is common.



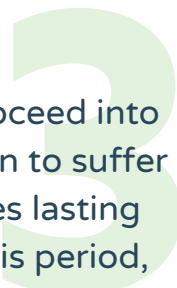
## Preeclampsia

- protein in the urine
- a low platelet count
- poor renal and liver function
- pitting edema
- visual disturbances such as blurry or double vision.



## Eclampsia

Untreated preeclampsia will proceed into eclampsia. The patient will begin to suffer tonic clonic, generalized seizures lasting longer than a minute. During this period, patients will often be apneic leading to hypoxia for both mother and baby.



Suspect eclampsia for any patient who has seizure activity following trauma.

