



Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy: Overview and Current Recommendations

Abstract

Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy include chronic hypertension, gestational hypertension, preeclampsia-eclampsia, and chronic hypertension with superimposed preeclampsia. These disorders are an important cause of maternal and fetal morbidity and mortality. Although advances in effective treatments have been made, current research has yet to identify a biochemical or diagnostic imaging marker to reliably predict preeclampsia. Despite current guidelines that address diagnosis and management of hypertensive disorders in pregnancy, health care providers may overlook or be unaware of signs that require immediate evaluation and treatment. This article reviews the definitions of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, diagnosis, pathophysiology of preeclampsia, indications for treatment, neurologic sequelae, and counseling about the implications of hypertension in pregnancy for subsequent health.