



First Trimester Pre-eclampsia Screening

For enquiries and appointments,
please contact us

HKSH Obstetrics & Gynaecology Centre

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Service Hours

Monday to Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays

Consultation by Appointment

Patient feedback is incorporated



OGC.003I.H/E-02-102026



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MEDICAL
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What is Pre-eclampsia?

Pre-eclampsia is a serious condition that occurs in around 2 to 3% of pregnancies. While common in late pregnancies, it can also happen as early as 20 weeks of gestation or even two to three weeks after delivery. Severe pre-eclampsia can be life-threatening to both baby and mother.

What is the Cause of Pre-eclampsia?

While the cause remains unknown, pre-eclampsia is associated with the following risk factors:

- An obstetric history of pre-eclampsia
- A medical history of hypertension, renal disease, diabetes or autoimmune disease, e.g. SLE (systemic lupus erythematosus)
- A family history of pre-eclampsia
- First pregnancy
- Advanced maternal age (≥ 40 years)
- Overweight (BMI $\geq 35\text{kg/m}^2$)

What are the Risks of Pre-eclampsia?

Pre-eclampsia may lead to organ damage and bleeding problems. It can be fatal if left untreated.

Risk to Mother:

- Lead to seizures
- Affect liver or kidneys
- Increase chance of stroke
- Increase chance of bleeding from placenta

Risk to Baby:

- Increase risk of pre-term birth
- Restrict fetal growth
- Increase chance of stillbirth

Given the serious complications, recent research has shown that early screening is effective in identifying mothers at risk for timely prevention.

What Do We Need to Do during Screening Test?

- Obtain obstetric and medical history
- Maternal blood taking
- Measure blood pressure on both arms twice
- Ultrasound examination of uterine artery blood flow by doctor

When Should this Test be Done?

Pregnant women with a singleton pregnancy can undergo this screening test from 11+0 to 13+6 weeks of gestation.

When Will the Result be Available?

The estimated risk of pre-term pre-eclampsia should be available in about three working days.

If you are considered high risk after screening, a follow-up consultation will be arranged for further counselling.