

GURANDA OKROPIRIDZE, ARSEN GVENETADZE, REVAZ SULUKHIA,
 RUSUDAN GVENETADZE, DIANA CHANUKVADZE
**IMPACT OF THE FIRST PREECLAMPSIA SCREENING TEST
 ON THE OUTCOME OF PREGNANCY**

Tbilisi state university, Zurab Sabakhtarashvili Reproductive Clinic, Gudushauri National Medical Center

Doi: <https://doi.org/10.52340/jecm.2026.01.06>

*გურანდა ოქროპირიძე, არსენ გვენეტაძე, რევაზ სულუხია,
 რუსუდან გვენეტაძე, დიანა ჭანუკვაძე*

პირველი პრეეკლამპსიის სკრინინგული ტესტის გავლენა ორსულობის შედეგზე
 თბილისის სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტი, ზურაბ საბახტარაშვილის რეპროდუქციული კლინიკა,
 ლუდუშაურის სახელობის ეროვნული სამედიცინო ცენტრი

რეზიუმე

შესავალი. ჰიპერტენზიული დარღვევები მსოფლიოში დედისა და პერინატალური ავადობისა და სიკვდილიანობის ერთ-ერთი წამყვანი მიზეზია. პრეეკლამპსიით ერთი ორსული ქალი იღუპება 7 წუთში ერთხელ (სულ 70 000) და ერთი ნაყოფი (სულ 525 000) ერთ წუთში ერთხელ (ჯანდაცვის მსოფლიო ორგანიზაცია, 2019).

მიზანი. პირველი ტრიმესტრის პრეეკლამპსიის სკრინინგული ტესტის ეფექტურობის შეფასება.

მეთოდები. 2021-2025 წლებში (ავგუსტო) ზურაბ საბახტარაშვილის რეპროდუქციულ კლინიკაში ჩატარდა პროსპექტულ-ობსერვაციული კვლევა 143 ორსულ ქალზე, რომლებსაც ჰქონდათ პრეეკლამპსიის დადასტურებული მაღალი რისკი (ჯგუფი I). ყველა მონაწილეს ჩატარდა პრეეკლამპსიის სკრინინგული ტესტი პირველ ტრიმესტრში, ორსულობის 11-14 კვირაზე, რაც მოიცავდა საშვილოსნოს არტერიის ორმხრივ დოპლეროგრაფიას, საშუალო არტერიულ წნევას და ბიოქიმიურ მარკერებს (პლაცენტას ზრდის ფაქტორი). მაღალი რისკის მქონე ორსულებს მთელი ორსულობის განმავლობაში უტარდებოდათ აცეტილსალიცილის მუავას 150 მგ მკურნალობა. გარდა ამისა, 2023-2024 წლებში ლუდუშაურის სახელობის ეროვნულ სამედიცინო ცენტრში შესწავლილი იქნა 106 ორსული ქალი, რომლებსაც განუვითარდათ პრეეკლამპსია (II ჯგუფი). ლოგისტიკური რეგრესია იქნა გამოყენებული დამაბნეველი ფაქტორების გამოსარიცხად.

შედეგები: 2021 წლის 1 იანვრიდან 2025 წლის 31 ივლისამდე პერიოდში ზურაბ საბახტარაშვილის რეპროდუქციულ კლინიკაში ჩატარდა 950 პრეეკლამპსიის სკრინინგული ტესტი. 503 შემთხვევაში დადასტურდა მაღალი რისკი (53.4%). პროსპექტულ-ობსერვაციული კვლევისთვის შეირჩა 143 ორსული ქალი პრეეკლამპსიის მაღალი რისკით (I ჯგუფი). მათგან 90.2%-ს (129 ორსული) არ განუვითარდა პრეეკლამპსია, 9.8%-ს (14 ორსული) განუვითარდა პრეეკლამპსია. კვლევა აჩვენებს, რომ ამ 143 პაციენტში დედის ან ნაყოფის ჯანმრთელობასთან დაკავშირებული პრობლემები არ დაფიქსირებულა (დედის სიკვდილიანობა - 0, ნაყოფის სიკვდილიანობა - 0, ჰისტერექტომია - 0, დედის ინტენსიური თერაპიის განყოფილებაში განთავსება - 0). ცალკე შესწავლილი იქნა 106 ორსული ქალის მეორე ჯგუფი, რომლებსაც განუვითარდათ პრეეკლამპსია. ამ ჯგუფში არცერთს არ ჩატარებია სკრინინგ ტესტი. ამ ჯგუფში აღინიშნა შემდეგი გართულებები: ნაყოფის სიკვდილი - 13 (12.3%), ჰისტერექტომია - 5 (4.7%), დედის ინტენსიური თერაპიის განყოფილებაში განთავსება - 5 (4.7%). დედისა და ნაყოფის არასასურველი შედეგების სხვაობა სკრინინგირებულ და არასკრინინგულ ჯგუფებს შორის მნიშვნელოვანი იყო ($p < 0.05$).

დასკვნა: ჩვენი კვლევა აჩვენებს, რომ 143 ორსული ქალიდან, რომლებსაც სკრინინგის შედეგად პრეეკლამპსიის მაღალი რისკი აღმოაჩნდათ და რომლებმაც მიიღეს შესაბამისი მკურნალობა (აცეტილსალიცილის მუავას 150 მგ დღიური დოზა), მხოლოდ 14-ს (9.8%) განუვითარდა პრეეკლამპსია. დედა-ნაყოფის სერიოზული გართულებების შემთხვევები არ დაფიქსირებულა.

Introduction. The reduction of maternal deaths is a key international development goal [2]. Hypertensive disorders are the most common medical complications during gestation [3]. Preeclampsia (PE), which complicates 2 to 4% of pregnancies globally, is progressive, unpredictable, and serious [8]. PE is the second leading cause of maternal mortality worldwide [4]. The disease burden is borne disproportionately by women in low- and middle-income countries or who are otherwise disadvantaged [6]. Georgia is also recognized to be a middle-income country, thus screening of PE in the first trimester of pregnancy is very important for our population. Generally, PE is developed after 20 weeks of gestation and is characterized by hypertension and proteinuria [5]. Identifying women at higher risk for PE early in pregnancy, based on medical history and routine tests, could inform risk-based prevention and screening [9]. Various first trimester prediction models have been developed. Most of them have not undergone or failed external validation, however Fetal Medicine Foundation (FMF) first trimester prediction model (namely the triple test), which consists of a combination of maternal factors and measurements of mean arterial pressure, uterine artery pulsatility index and serum placental growth factor, has undergone successful internal and external validation [11].

US Preventive Services Task Force found adequate evidence that screening for PE results in a substantial benefit for the mother and infant [10]. Aspirin was associated with a lower rate of late-onset preeclampsia ≥ 34 w [7]. Between 2007 and 2010, a multitude of contradictory studies and controversial conclusions prompted Bujold et al. to publish in 2010 a meta-analysis of 34 double-blind randomized trials measuring the effect of low-dose aspirin on the incidence of preeclampsia and intrauterine growth restriction [12]. Their findings were in accord with those of Askie et al. [13] but suggested a greater beneficial effect, especially when aspirin was started before 16 weeks of gestation (RR 0.47; 95% CI 0.34–0.65) in high-risk patients. This effect was no longer significant when the treatment was started after 16 weeks of gestation (RR 0.81; 95% CI 0.65–1.03) [14,18].

Methods. A prospective observational study was conducted in 143 pregnant women with confirmed high risk of preeclampsia (group I) at the Zurab Sabakhtarashvili Reproductive Clinic in 2021–2025 (August). All participants underwent a preeclampsia screening test in the first trimester at 11–14 weeks of pregnancy. It included the recording of maternal demographic characteristics and medical history and the measurement of serum placental growth factor and soluble fms-like tyrosine kinase-1 and mean arterial pressure [15]. High-risk pregnant women were treated with 150 mg of acetylsalicylic acid throughout the pregnancy. In addition to that, in 2023–2024, 106 pregnant women who developed preeclampsia (group II) were studied at the Gudushauri National Medical Center. Results are presented as forest plot with *P*-values for the interaction effects, group sizes, event counts and estimated odds ratios [16]. The χ^2 test for interaction was used to assess statistically significant ($P < .05$) differences in treatment effect between subgroups [17].

Results. In 01.01.2021 – 31.07.2025, 950 preeclampsia screening tests were performed at Zurab Sabakhtarashvili Reproductive Clinic. In 503 cases were confirmed a high risk (53.4%). 143 pregnant women with high risk of preeclampsia (group I) were selected for a prospective observational study. 90.2% (129 pregnant women) of them did not develop preeclampsia, 9.8% (14 pregnant women) developed preeclampsia. Study shows that no problems with maternal or fetal health were observed in these 143 patients (maternal mortality - 0, fetal mortality - 0, hysterectomy - 0, maternal intensive care unit placement - 0.) A second group of 106 pregnant women who developed preeclampsia was studied separately. No one in this group had undergone a screening test. The following complications were noted in this group: fetal death - 13 (12.3%), hysterectomy - 5 (4.7%), maternal intensive care unit placement-

5 (4.7%). The difference in maternal and fetal adverse outcomes between the screened and unscreened groups was significant ($p < 0.05$) [43].

Discussion. Our study demonstrates that doing preeclampsia screening test at 13-14 weeks of Gestation and administration of acetylsalicylic acid significantly reduces chances of developing preeclampsia in pregnant women, suggesting a potential role in improving pregnancy outcomes.

In 1996 McDuffe et al. published that no studies directly compared the effectiveness of preeclampsia screening in a screened population vs an unscreened population [23]. In 2007 Rhode Et al. made research where 933 pregnant women received urine tests at their first prenatal visit. The study reported equivalence in the rates of diagnosis for preeclampsia/eclampsia, high blood pressure, and cesarean deliveries [24]. In 2009-2011 Poon et al. evaluated 7,797 women with singleton, first-trimester pregnancies attending clinics for routine care, with a 2% overall incidence of PE. The predictive model incorporated maternal factors, uterine artery Doppler, maternal MAP, PAPP-A, and PIGF. For a 5% false-positive rate, the sensitivity and specificity for early-onset PE were 93 and 94%, respectively [20,21].

How accurate are urine tests? Twelve of the studies evaluated the accuracy of urine tests for protein to creatinine ratio in 1516 pregnant women [25-36]. The test sensitivities ranged from 65% (95% CI not calculable) [35] to 96% (95% CI, 88%-99%) [34], with most falling above 81%.

In 2023 was found several immunological factors that also play a role in the development of the disease. During uncomplicated pregnancies, the ratio of T helper cells shifts towards the anti-inflammatory Th2 phenotype [37,38,39].

This article demonstrates that, while the only definitive treatment for preeclampsia remains the delivery of the neonate and placenta, significant progress has been made, particularly in preventing and screening for preeclampsia.

We conclude that, while a definitive cure for preeclampsia may not be eligible in the near future, it is likely that the assessment and enhancement of preventive methods will lead to the prevention of many cases. However, it is also important to highlight that more additional research is needed in the future to clarify the exact pathophysiology of preeclampsia and to thus identify potential therapeutic targets for more improved treatment methods [37].

Conclusion. Early-onset preeclampsia is generally more severe and leads to an early delivery, often of a growth restricted fetus. It not only increases the risk for the mother but also for the fetus and the neonate. Despite considerable research and recent development of prenatal screening, the problem is far from resolved [40,41]. Given the severity of the disorder, it is important to provide effective early screening and prevention for preterm PE [42]. Women at an increased risk of preeclampsia should be offered antiplatelet therapy, regardless of whether they are first seen before or after 16 weeks' gestation [18].

Acknowledgments. Tbilisi State University, Zurab Sabakhtarashvili Reproductive Clinic, Gudushauri National Medical Center.

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**IMPACT OF THE FIRST PREECLAMPSIA SCREENING TEST
ON THE OUTCOME OF PREGNANCY**

Tbilisi state university, Zurab Sabakhtarashvili Reproductive Clinic, Gudushauri National Medical Center

SUMMARY

Background. Hypertensive disorders are one of the leading causes of maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality worldwide. One pregnant woman dies in 7 minutes (70 000 in total) and one fetus (525 000 in total) dies in a minute from preeclampsia (World Health Organization, 2019).

Aim. To assess the effectiveness of the first-trimester preeclampsia screening test.

Methods. A prospective observational study was conducted in 143 pregnant women with confirmed high risk of preeclampsia (group I) at the Zurab Sabakhtarashvili Reproductive Clinic in 2021-2025 (August). All participants underwent a preeclampsia screening test in the first trimester at 11-14 weeks of pregnancy, which included bilateral uterine artery Doppler, mean arterial pressure, and biochemical markers (placental growth factor). High-risk pregnant women were treated with 150 mg of acetylsalicylic acid throughout the pregnancy. In addition to that, in 2023-2024, 106 pregnant women who developed preeclampsia (group II) were studied at the Gudushauri National Medical Center. Logistic regression was used to exclude confounding factors.

Results: In 01.01.2021 – 31.07.2025, 950 preeclampsia screening tests were performed at Zurab Sabakhtarashvili Reproductive Clinic. In 503 cases were confirmed a high risk (53.4%). 143 pregnant women with high risk of preeclampsia (group I) were selected for a prospective observational study. 90.2% (129 pregnant women) of them did not develop preeclampsia, 9.8% (14 pregnant women) developed preeclampsia. Study shows that no problems with maternal or fetal health were observed in these 143 patients (maternal mortality - 0, fetal mortality - 0, hysterectomy - 0, maternal intensive care unit placement - 0.) A second group of 106 pregnant women who developed preeclampsia was studied separately. No one in this group had undergone a screening test. The following complications were noted in this group: fetal death - 13 (12.3%), hysterectomy - 5 (4.7%), maternal intensive care unit placement - 5 (4.7%). The difference in maternal and fetal adverse outcomes between the screened and unscreened groups was significant ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion: Our study shows that of 143 pregnant women who were found to be at high risk for preeclampsia by screening and who received appropriate treatment (daily 150 mg of acetylsalicylic acid), only 14 (9.8%) developed preeclampsia. No cases of serious maternal-fetal complications were reported.

Keywords: Preeclampsia; Infertility; Pregnancy complications; Maternal health, Screening test

