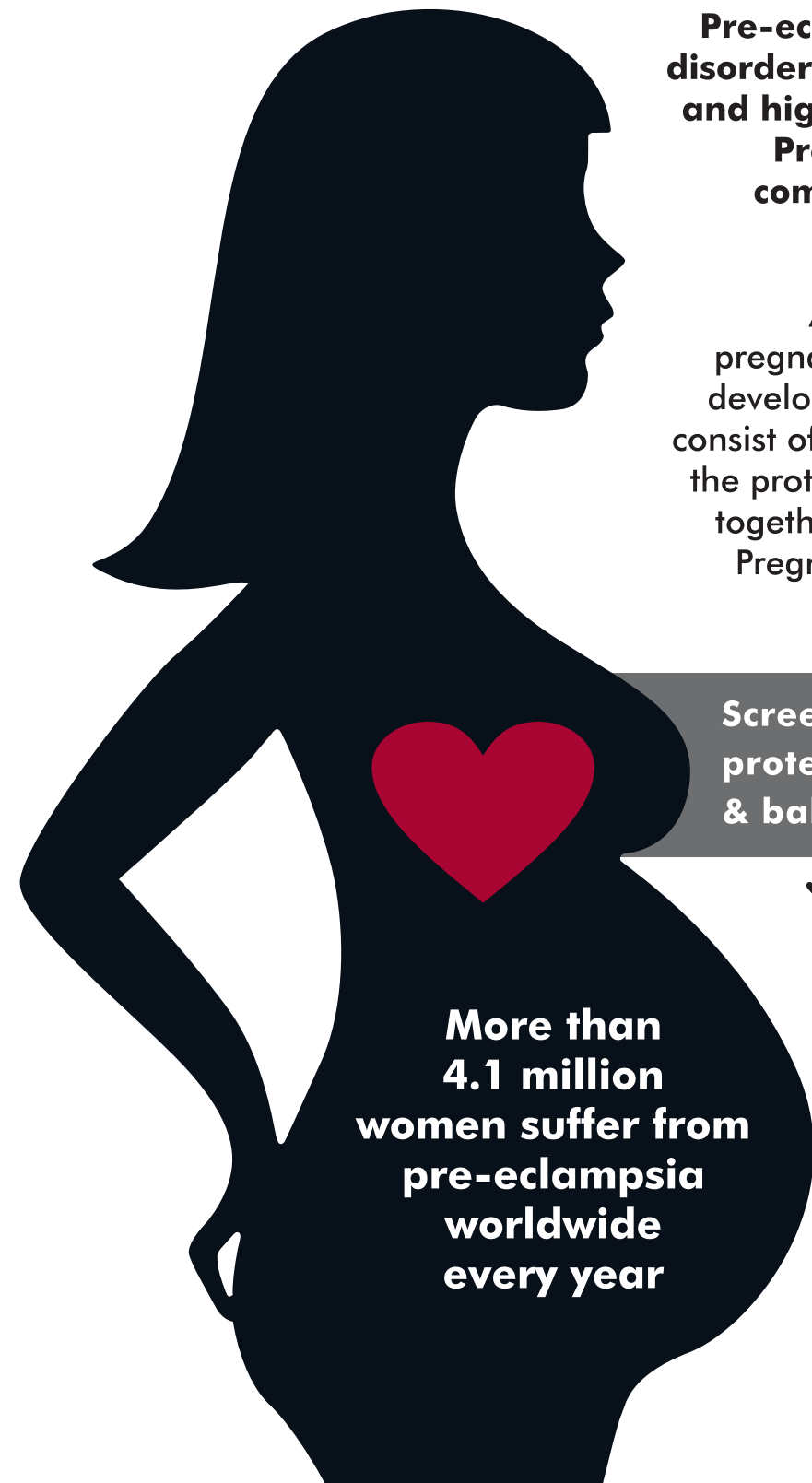


Screening for Pre-eclampsia



More than 4.1 million women suffer from pre-eclampsia worldwide every year

Pre-eclampsia is a pregnancy related disorder related to high blood pressure and high levels of protein in the urine. Pre-eclampsia can lead to severe complications for both mother and baby.

A screening test in weeks 10-13 of pregnancy can reliably predict the risk of developing pre-eclampsia. The screening consist of testing blood from the mother for the protein Placental Growth Factor (PIGF) together with another pregnancy protein Pregnancy Associated Plasma Protein-A (PAPP-A).

Screening for pre-eclampsia can protect the health of both mother & baby. To determine your risk:

Detect PIGF & PAPP-A in maternal blood

Measure blood pressure

Detect proteins in urine

Do ultrasound scan

What you need to know about pre-eclampsia

Who is at risk?

Although pre-eclampsia can affect any pregnancy, some pregnancies are more at risk:

Previous history of pre-eclampsia or family history of pre-eclampsia

Pre-existing high blood pressure, diabetes, renal disease or obesity

Age above 40 years or below 18 years

Expecting twins or triplets

What is the cause?

The exact cause of pre-eclampsia is not known. What we do know is that concentrations of placental substances (e.g PIGF and PAPP-A) are either too high or too low in pre-eclampsia compared to a healthy pregnancy.

What does the pre-eclampsia screening test tell you?

A low risk means that you are not likely to develop pre-eclampsia later in your pregnancy. Your doctor will continue to provide you with normal prenatal care.

A high risk indicates that you have a higher risk than the norm to develop pre-eclampsia. Having a high risk is not your fault. It is not the result of what you're eating or stress, it is a relatively common complication in pregnancy.

Pre-eclampsia can't be cured, but if predicted early, it can be monitored and treated. Studies have shown that preventative care can reduce the incidence of pre-eclampsia and complications for both the mother and baby. Preventative care aims to prevent pre-eclampsia or delay the onset of pre-eclampsia. Low dose aspirin started before 16 weeks of pregnancy has been shown to reduce the incidence of pre-eclampsia. This medication can only be advised and prescribed by your treating doctor.

Ask your doctor about signs and symptoms of pre-eclampsia.