

PRE-ECLAMPSIA/ECLAMPSIA

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS (with pregnancy):

1. Headache
2. Edema
3. Visual disturbances
4. Upper right quadrant/ epigastric pain
5. Decrease in urinary output
6. Seizure
7. Unresponsiveness

OBTAIN HISTORY OF:

1. Pregnancy
2. Hypertension
3. Renal disease
4. Family history of pre-eclampsia/eclampsia
5. Recent past seizure activity

PRECAUTIONS:

1. Usually occurs during third trimester of pregnancy or within 48 hours after birth. Cases have happened before 20 weeks gestation and as late as 23 days after delivery.

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT CARE:

1. Do not delay transport
2. Maintain an open airway and adequate ventilations, apply oxygen as needed to ensure SaO₂ greater than 95%.
3. Monitor vital signs every 5 minutes
4. Place patient on stretcher in *Left Lateral Recumbent Position*
5. Protect against maternal injury during seizure activity
6. Decrease external stimulation as much as possible (lower lights and RLS only in emergencies)
7. EMt with IV training - establish IV TKO

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT CARE: In addition to above and as appropriate:

1. 4-6 g magnesium sulfate IM or IV **over 20 minutes** (buretrol recommended) to decrease or prevent further seizure activity
2. Contact Medical Control Physician for further orders

SPECIAL NOTES:

1. Eclampsia is defined as seizure activity or coma unrelated to other cerebral conditions in an O.B. with preeclampsia.
2. In the U.S., approximately 5% of pregnancies are complicated by preeclampsia and 0.5-2% progress to eclampsia.
3. No definite cause has been identified; however, genetic, immunologic, endocrinologic, nutritional, and infectious agents have been proposed as possible causes.
4. Preeclampsia/eclampsia creates a functional derangement of multiple organ systems including the central nervous system, hematologic, hepatic, renal and cardiovascular system.