

# PREECLAMPSIA

What do I need  
to know?

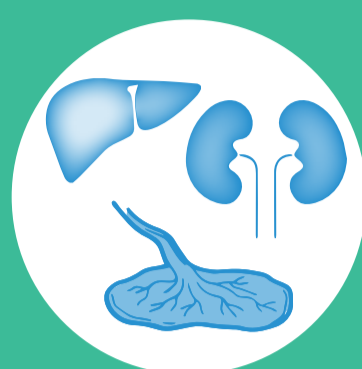


## What is preeclampsia?

A serious condition involving:



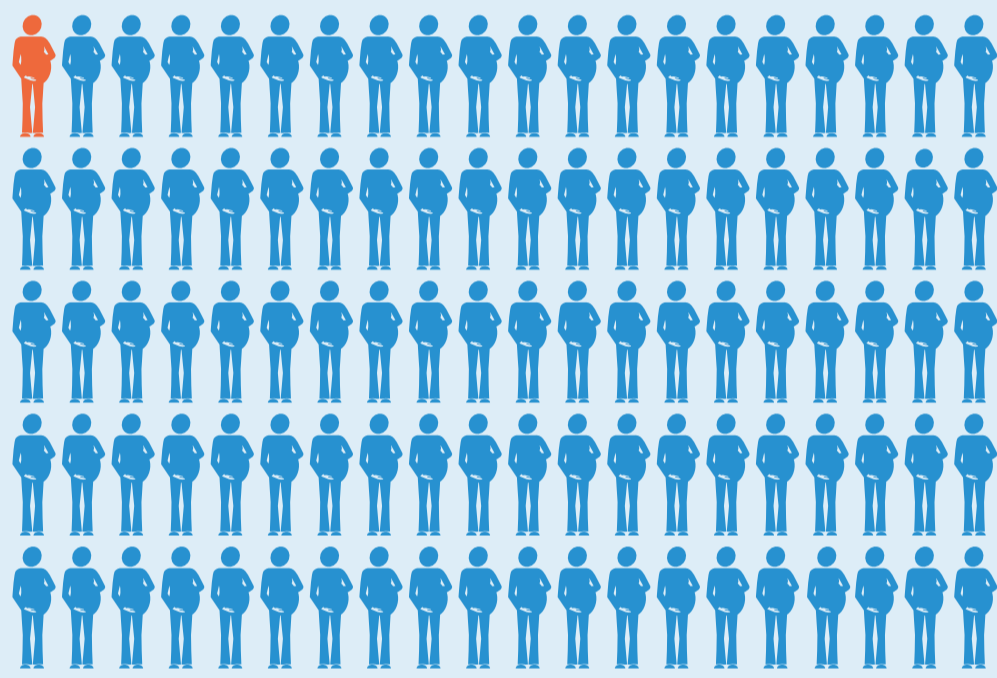
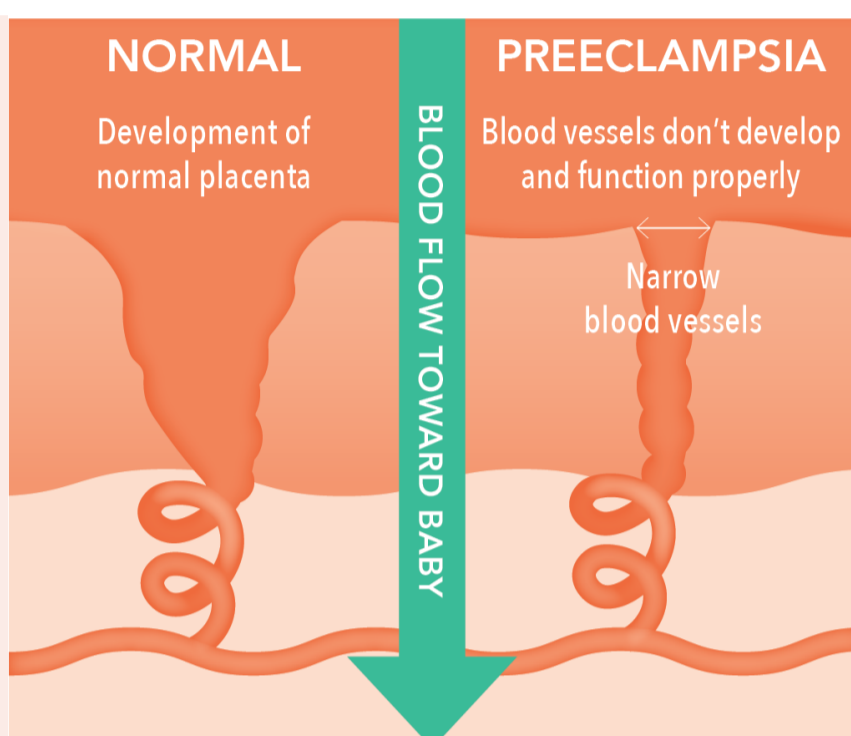
**High blood pressure** starting in the second half of pregnancy



Problems for certain organs like the **liver, kidneys or placenta**

## Why would I develop preeclampsia?

- Scientists don't fully understand what causes preeclampsia
- It may be from a difference in the way the placenta develops
- Less blood flow to the baby can slow their growth



1 out  
of 100

Pregnant  
people in  
Canada are  
affected by  
preeclampsia

You may be **MORE LIKELY** to develop preeclampsia if...

You've had **preeclampsia** before

You have **diabetes** or an **inflammatory disease**

You have a **family history** of preeclampsia

Your **BMI** was over 30 when you became pregnant

You had **high blood pressure** before pregnancy

You're pregnant with **twins**

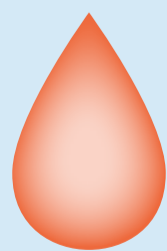
This is your **first** pregnancy

You became pregnant with assistance like **IVF**

## Why is preeclampsia so serious?



The baby may need to be born earlier than usual



Increases risk of the placenta detaching causing serious bleeding for the pregnant person and lack of oxygen for the baby



Without treatment, preeclampsia can become eclampsia, a very serious condition involving seizures and can lead to stroke, coma or death

For more information, please refer to our **Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy Handout**