

The Importance of InterPregGen

InterPregGen is the largest ever international research project into the genetics of the potentially fatal condition called pre-eclampsia. The study has been approved by the Research Ethics Committees in each of the participating countries.



“We are studying the genes which lead women to develop pre-eclampsia. By understanding which genes cause the disease, it may be possible to prevent pre-eclampsia or improve treatment.”

More information can be found on our website:

www.interpreggen.org

Acknowledgments

InterPregGen would like to thank those women and their families who have participated in our pre-eclampsia research (past and present).

InterPregGen Centres include:



This project is funded by support from the European Union Seventh Framework Programme.



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Genetic studies of pre-eclampsia in Central Asian and European populations



An international research study into a disorder of pregnancy



InterPregGen: Genetic Studies of Pre-eclampsia

What is Pre-eclampsia?

Pre-eclampsia is a disorder of pregnancy, which is usually detected when the midwife or doctor finds that the pregnant woman's blood pressure is high,



and that protein is escaping into her urine. In many cases

the problem starts long before diagnosis, with faulty growth of the placenta.

About 3% of pregnant women in Western Europe develop pre-eclampsia; this figure is over twice as high in Central Asia.

In the most severe cases pre-eclampsia is life-threatening to the woman and her baby. The only cure is delivery, which may mean that the baby is exposed to the additional risks of prematurity.

What is InterPregGen?

InterPregGen is an international research project aiming to identify changes in DNA which predispose to pre-eclampsia. It's called the InterPregGen study because it's international, it's about pregnancy, and it's studying genes.

There is good evidence for inherited factors – a woman whose mother had pre-eclampsia is three times more likely than other women to



develop the condition herself. Her baby's genes

are also important, whether they are inherited from mother or father.

This is why we will be studying DNA samples from mothers, their partners and their babies.

Who is involved?

InterPregGen is a truly international study, with several participating centres across the world. They include obstetricians, midwives and geneticists from Finland, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Norway, the UK and Uzbekistan.



We have already collected DNA samples in previous studies from European women and their families. Those samples will also be used within the InterPregGen study.

As part of this work we will also be collecting more samples from women in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, along with their partners and babies. This will help us identify the genetic factors which predispose to this disorder.