

MANAGEMENT OF HYPERTENSION DURING PREGNANCY

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ABSTRACT: Hypertension is the most common medical problem encountered in pregnancy and remains an important cause of maternal and fetal, morbidity and mortality. It complicates up to 15% of pregnancies and accounts for approximately a quarter of all antenatal admissions. The hypertensive disorders of pregnancy cover a spectrum of conditions, of which pre-eclampsia poses the greatest potential risk and remains one of the most common causes of maternal death.

The goal of treatment is to prevent significant cerebrovascular and cardiovascular events in the mother, without compromising fetal well-being. Current guidelines differentiate between the treatment of women with acute hypertensive syndromes of pregnancy and women with preexisting chronic hypertension in pregnancy. This review will address the management of hypertension in pregnancy, review the various pharmacologic therapies, and discuss the future directions in this field. The overall strategy in the treatment of hypertension in pregnancy is to prevent maternal cerebrovascular and cardiac complications, while preserving the uteroplacental and fetal circulation and limiting medication toxicity to the fetus.

Key words: hypertension, pregnancy

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