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Steam project

Pre-Eclampsia one of the most common pregnancy disorder

My STEAM project is covering the Reproductive unit and common pregnancy disorders and the causes.

Pre-Eclampsia is a life threatening disease that can occur after the 20th week into a pregnancy, it is considered one of the most serve complications that could occur during pregnancy. About 70,000 pregnant women are diagnosed with pre-eclampsia a year. Pre-Eclampsia is identifiable by two things; consistent high blood pressure is the main factor, and then one of the following- protein found within the urine, maternal organ dysfunction, or uteroplacental dysfunction. This disorder is broken down into a couple different classifications which are, early onset being before 34 weeks gestation, late onset is being after 34 weeks, and lastly the mother can also develop pre-eclampsia after the birth of the baby. There are different approaches on how to treat each diagnosis, however the classification of which the women is diagnosed in, has no relation to the health of the mother or fetus. When it is an early onset diagnoses the treat is usually monitoring the mother and fetus, while giving antihypertensive drugs, as well as an anticonvulsant drug until it is considered safe enough to deliver the fetus which is usually around 36 weeks generation if the mother and baby are handling treatment well. For late onset diagnosis the treat is usually to induce the delivery of fetus. If pre-eclampsia occurs after pregnancy, treatment is similar to early onset diagnosis treatment plan.

The cause of pre-eclampsia is still being research, it is known that it is a defect within the placenta. When it is an early onset diagnoses it very similar to atherosclerosis, which is a build up of substances that will line the arteries creating an obstruction of blood flow. Late onset is believed to be more of the fetal having higher demands than are supplied creating a metabolic crisis. While a postpartum diagnosis is because of the problematic placenta had already released into the mothers blood which then causes a systemic inflammation and spreads endothelial dysfunction.

If pre-eclampsia is not caught early enough it can cause death to both the mother and fetus. Even with it being caught early on and treated women who have had pre eclampsia are more likely to have a stroke, suffer from cardiovascular diseases and potentially diabetes. While infants born are more likely to be born prematurely have neurodevelopment delays, cardiovascular or metabolic disease there is also the possibility of perinatal death. The mother and the child are both at an increased risk for having chronic health problems just from being exposed.

There isn’t a known way of prevention of pre-eclampsia. The best thing is to watch out for the symptoms which are headaches, abdominal pain, blurred vision and burning sensation within the chest.

Works cited

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