Genetic counseling in preeclampsia
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Objective
The purpose of this presentation will be to provide practical information concerning the reproductive risk of preeclampsia. This presentation will define the genetic factors contributing to the clinical expression of preeclampsia and will evaluate various molecular technologies for a personalized risk assessment of preeclampsia.

Methods
Patterns of inheritance were evaluated bases on selected publications on the genetics of preeclampsia. Efficacy of identifying pregnancies at high risk of preeclampsia was estimated by assessing the cost of different molecular technologies applied on a population-wide basis and sensitivity analyses based on varying population characteristics.

Results
Polygenic inheritance provides the major underlying genetic contribution to the clinical expression of preeclampsia, although autosomal recessive and autosomal dominant patterns of inheritance may explain certain family histories. A cost: benefit analysis applying different population rates of preeclampsia and different molecular technologies suggest that population-wide genetic testing warrants consideration. The clinical variations associated with preeclampsia also suggest that preeclampsia may represent a series of different underlying disease states all with a common phenotypic endpoint.

Conclusion
This presentation raises the question: is it time to apply population-wide genetic testing early in pregnancy to determine risk of preeclampsia?