

# Questionnaire survey to examine pregnant women's attitude towards first trimester screening for preeclampsia

Gerdes SMB,<sup>1</sup> Riishede I<sup>1,2</sup>, Rode L<sup>3</sup>, Miltoft CB<sup>2</sup>, Midtgaard J<sup>4</sup>, Stener-Jørgensen F<sup>1,5</sup>, Pihl K<sup>2,5</sup>, Tabor A<sup>1,2</sup>, Ekelund CK<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Health Sciences, Copenhagen University, Copenhagen <sup>2</sup>Center of Fetal Medicine, Department of Obstetrics, Copenhagen University Hospital Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen <sup>3</sup>Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Copenhagen University Hospital, Rigshospitalet Glostrup, Glostrup <sup>4</sup>Mental Health Center Glostrup, Copenhagen University Hospital - Mental Health Services CPH, Copenhagen, <sup>5</sup>Department of Fetal Medicine, Copenhagen University Hospital, Hvidovre, Copenhagen, Denmark



## Objectives:

The aim of the study was to examine danish pregnant women's attitude towards first trimester screening for preeclampsia.

## Methods:

This questionnaire survey is part of the Danish multi-center implementation study of first trimester screening for preeclampsia (PRESIDE).

Participation was offered to a proportion of women attending a screening scan at two University Hospitals in Copenhagen, Rigshospitalet and Hvidovre Hospital. In the period November 2021 to March 2022 the pregnant women answered the questionnaire by scanning a QR-code with their phone which granted access to the questionnaire in a REDcap database.

The questionnaire was based on the "Theory of Planned Behavior" and consisted of 45 items which took approximately ten minutes to complete. The questions were evaluated by five pregnant women and discussed in an expert panel prior to starting recruitment.

## Results:

We asked 772 pregnant women to participate and **349** returned the questionnaire (participation rate 45.2 %). The majority of the women were between 26-35 years, of European ethnic origin with an educational level corresponding to at least a bachelor's degree.

The vast majority of women were positive about screening in pregnancy, although 8.9 % indicated that screening in general makes them more concerned than reassured. But if they had the opportunity, 99.4 % of the pregnant women would attend first trimester screening for preeclampsia.

If the women were categorized as being in the low risk group they would be relieved, but still they would be aware of symptoms of preeclampsia. If the women were categorized as being in high risk 94.3 % would take medicine and 98.6% would feel reassured by being offered additional controls.

In total 338 out of 347 (97.4%) answered "yes" to whether a first trimester screening for preeclampsia should be offered to all pregnant women in Denmark.

## Conclusion:

This study indicates that Danish pregnant women have a positive attitude towards participation in a first trimester screening program for preeclampsia.

