

# Blood test may help rule out preeclampsia in short term

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(HealthDay)—A sFlt-1:PIGF ratio of 38 or lower appears to help rule

out preeclampsia in women in whom the syndrome is suspected clinically, according to a study published in the Jan. 7 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Stefan Verlohren, M.D., Ph.D., senior researcher on the new study and a consultant in maternal/fetal [medicine](#) at Charite University Medicine in Berlin, and colleagues looked at whether the sFlt-1:PIGF ratio could help predict whether women with suspected [preeclampsia](#) would be diagnosed with the disorder in the next week. Verlohren's team used [blood samples](#) from 1,050 women who were between the 24th and 37th week of pregnancy, all of whom had suspected preeclampsia.

In a developmental group of 500 women, the researchers found that a test result of 38 appeared to be the key cut-off number. The results were validated in a second group of 550 patients. The test showed a negative predictive value (no preeclampsia in the subsequent week) of 99.3 percent, with 80.0 percent sensitivity and 78.3 percent specificity.

"An sFlt-1:PIGF ratio of 38 or lower can be used to predict the short-term absence of preeclampsia in [women](#) in whom the syndrome is suspected clinically," the authors conclude.

The test's manufacturer, Roche Diagnostics, funded the new study, and Verlohren and several coauthors disclosed financial ties to the company.

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