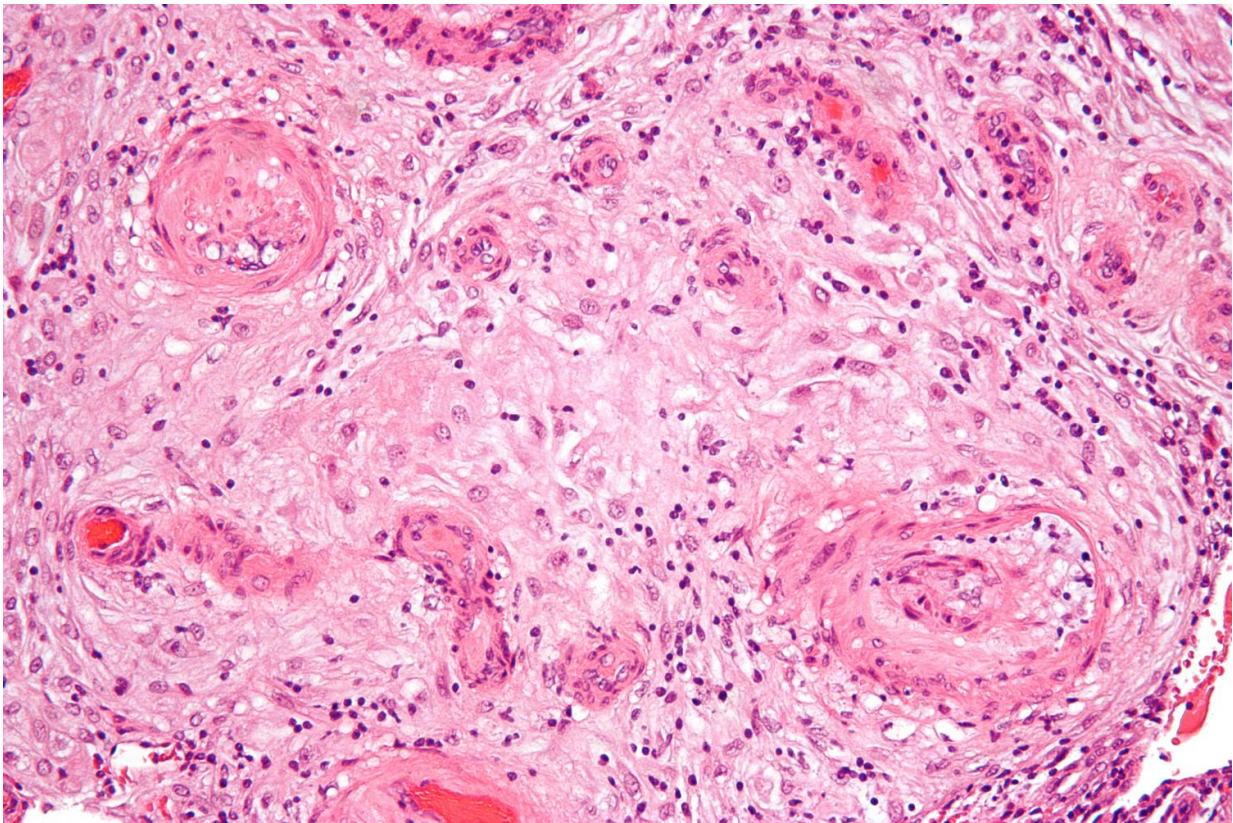


# Genetic signature may identify mothers at risk for preeclampsia

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High magnification micrograph of hypertrophic decidual vasculopathy, as seen in pregnancy-induced hypertension. Credit: Wikipedia

Researchers at Baylor College of Medicine have identified a genetic signature combining certain maternal and fetal gene variants that are

associated with a higher risk of preeclampsia.

Preeclampsia is a pregnancy complication resulting from sudden elevation in [blood pressure](#) that may lead to maternal organ dysfunction and fetal growth restriction. If the condition is not controlled, eclampsia, a serious disorder that causes life-threatening seizures, may follow. Ten to 15 percent of [maternal mortality](#) is associated with preeclampsia and eclampsia.

What causes preeclampsia is not known, and the condition is difficult to predict, but in this new study published in *Scientific Reports*, Drs. Manu Banadakoppa, Meena Balakrishnan and Chandra Yallampalli in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at Baylor discovered that a particular combination of two maternal and one fetal gene variants seems to predispose women to [preeclampsia](#). The genes are linked to the complement system, an important part of the body's immune defense against infection that also can drive inflammation. This [genetic signature](#) of the condition could be used in the future to identify women at risk and prepare in advance to manage their condition.

**More information:** Manu Banadakoppa et al, Common variants of fetal and maternal complement genes in preeclampsia: pregnancy specific complotype, *Scientific Reports* (2020). [DOI: 10.1038/s41598-020-60539-9](#)

Provided by Baylor College of Medicine

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