Researchers observed seasonal variations in the risk of the hypertensive disorders of pregnancy—including gestational hypertension and preeclampsia—in a study of Danish women. In the *Acta Obstetricia et Gynecologica Scandinavica* study, the highest risk for hypertensive disorders was seen in pregnancies conceived during spring and summer.

Of 50,665 women included in the study, 8.5% were diagnosed with a hypertensive disorder of pregnancy. There appeared to be increasing risk when conceiving during the spring and *early summer*, peaking midsummer, and subsequently decreasing steadily during the autumn to reach a low by winter. Seasonal variations in vitamin D levels may help to explain these findings.

"Our results are of great interest, as vitamin D may have caused the observed *seasonal variation* in the hypertensive disorders. It has long been assumed that vitamin D affects the pathogenesis of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy—including preeclampsia—and our results support this hypothesis," said lead author Christine Rohr Thomsen, of Aarhus University Hospital, in Denmark.


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