1.7 Short assignments (10 minutes)

1. Preeclampsia is most likely to occur in the third trimester. What diseases should you consider with severe hypertension in the other trimesters?
2. A 24 year old G2P1 is pregnant at 24 weeks. She complains of a mild headache. Write down at least 7 questions that are important to ask, considering she might be developing hypertension. Also, explain why these questions are important.
1.7 Short assignments - Answer Key

Question 1:

*If severe hypertension appears in the first or early second trimester, you should exclude molar pregnancy or gestational trophoblastic disease or other serious renal/medical diseases.*

Question 2:

- Is the headache persistent? What has she tried to take to relieve her headache?
- Visual disturbance? (can indicate severe preeclampsia, possible eclampsia)
- Persistent epigastric pain? (liver edema)
- Pain in right upper quadrant? (subcapsulary hematoma of the liver)
- Difficulty breathing? (pulmonary edema)
- Does she feel her hands, feet and/or face are more swollen? Do family members think she appears more swollen/edematous than normal? (possible signs of preeclampsia)
- Fetal movement? (decreased fetal movement can indicate potential fetal jeopardy. Women with gestational HTN/preeclampsia/eclampsia are at risk for fetal growth restriction and fetal death)
- Does she have access to a clinic near her home where she could have her blood pressure checked a couple of times a week? (this would help see what her BP is like in her every day life and provide further data for the diagnosis of gestational HTN or preeclampsia)
- Did the patient have hypertension or preeclampsia during her last pregnancy? (this can increase her risk for developing these issues in this pregnancy)