5.1 Chronic hypertension and superimposed preeclampsia - Introduction (20 min)

In Learning Unit 5 we will look into the topic ‘chronic hypertension and superimposed preeclampsia’.

**Learning objectives**

When you have completed this Learning Unit, you will be able to:

- Define chronic hypertension in pregnancy and superimposed preeclampsia
- Understand maternal and fetal risks of uncontrolled chronic hypertension in pregnancy
- Understand and recognize superimposed preeclampsia
- Understand and discuss the management of chronic hypertension. Including:
  - Assessment of maternal condition
  - Assessment of fetal condition
  - Delivery considerations, including timing and mode of delivery
  - Medication considerations, including antihypertensive drugs, analgesics and MgSO4
  - Postpartum medication and check-ups
- Counsel patients on the risk for recurrence in future pregnancy and long term health consequences

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• Integrate acquired knowledge on management of chronic hypertension, gestational hypertension, superimposed preeclampsia, preeclampsia and eclampsia

Lecture

Please watch the first part of the lecture on chronic hypertension and superimposed preeclampsia by Dr. Diana Wolfe (Assistant Professor in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Women’s Health, Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine). In Learning Unit 5.4 we will watch other parts of this lecture.

Please take a moment to consider the following question: do you expect pre-eclampsia to appear earlier in pregnancy in patients with chronic hypertension? Dr. Diana Wolfe will explain the answer to you in the second part of the lecture below.