The impact of preeclampsia on maternal cardiovascular health in later life

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Preeclampsia is a multisystem pregnancy disorder affecting 3-5% of all pregnant women. Recently, placenta released angiogenic and antiangiogenic factors have been identified to contribute to the pathogenesis of the disease. The sFlt-1/PlGF-ratio has been shown to be an accurate predictor of preeclampsia. Women with a history of the disease have a significantly increased risk of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in later life. The mechanisms connecting the pregnancy disorder with the early onset of cardiovascular disease are not yet known. During pregnancy, a high percentage of women with preeclampsia exhibit asymptomatic global left ventricular abnormal function and geometry. Up to 56% of these women have persistent stage B heart failure post partum. PD Dr. Verlohren will discuss pathomechanisms, clinical evidence and the rationale for further clinical study.