# PET Study: Preeclampsia Research

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Preeclampsia is a condition of pregnancy identified by high blood pressure and protein in the urine. We have determined that the increase in blood pressure seen in preeclampsia is related to a reduced blood flow through small blood vessels. Moreover, we have identified that these alterations are greatest with a boy baby in the womb. This study aims to increase our understanding of how the mother's and baby's blood flow is affected by preeclampsia.

1. We measure blood flow after 34 weeks in a way that gives no discomfort, no expense and no increase in stay, using laser Doppler and acetylcholine iontophoresis. We also look at and record the blood flow through vessels on a video taken from under the tongue. We are measure vasoactive factors (sVEGF and Endoglin) in blood which are altered in preeclampsia to see if these relate to blood flow.

2. Collection of the cord blood at delivery.

3. Assessment of baby's blood flow and video of blood flow exactly at 6hrs, 24hrs and 72hrs of life.

This is a controlled study so we are comparing pregnant women, delivering at John Hunter, who are >34wks and have preeclampsia with those who do not have preeclampsia.

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