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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Study Looks to Improve Future Cardiovascular Prognosis in Pregnant Women with a History of Preeclampsia

(SEATTLE, June 10, 2022)—A new study being presented this week at the American Society of Echocardiography’s (ASE) 33rd Annual Scientific Sessions in Seattle, Wash., suggests that your blood pressure during pregnancy may impact your long-term heart health.

The research, titled *Echocardiographic Characterization of Long-Term Cardiac Function in Women with Preeclampsia*, focuses on the heart’s left ventricular mechanics and explores if its function might help explain the mechanisms of the heart that cause long-term cardiovascular conditions in women with preeclampsia.

During the study, comprehensive echocardiograms were performed approximately 10 years after pregnancy on women with a history of preeclampsia and in a control group of women who displayed normal blood pressure during pregnancy. The women with history of preeclampsia were found to have significantly lower left ventricular global longitudinal strain (LV GLS) values, which can be an early marker for cardiac dysfunction.

Preeclampsia is a hypertensive disorder of pregnancy associated with organ damage and is the leading cause of adverse maternal outcomes and maternal death. Traditionally considered a disorder limited to pregnancy, studies have found that women who experience preeclampsia are at a significantly increased lifelong risk for cardiovascular disease. However, determining the reason for this correlation remains unclear, resulting in a failure to develop specific screening, preventative and treatment strategies.

“Our observational study aimed to better characterize long-term cardiac structure and function in women with a history of preeclampsia, compared to women with uncomplicated pregnancies,” says lead author Hena Patel, MD, a cardiologist who primarily focuses on multimodality cardiac imaging and women’s cardiovascular health at the University of Chicago Medical Center in Illinois. “We found that long-term subclinical cardiac dysfunction is predominantly accounted for by left ventricular dysfunction, specifically LV GLS, with recovery of function in the remaining cardiac chambers.”

The research study will be presented at ASE 2022 during a poster presentation on Saturday, June 11, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Seattle Convention Center. Learn more about ASE 2022 and download the conference’s final event program at ASEScientificSessions.org.

About ASE

The American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) is the Society for Cardiovascular Ultrasound Professionals™. Founded in 1975, ASE is the largest global organization representing cardiovascular ultrasound imaging. ASE is the leader and advocate for physicians, sonographers, scientists, veterinarians, students, and all those with an interest in echocardiography, setting practice standards and guidelines for the field. The Society is committed to advancing cardiovascular ultrasound to improve lives. For more information about ASE, visit: ASEcho.org and follow us [@ASE360](https://twitter.com/ASE360).

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