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| **Thesis Title** | Risk Factors as Predictors of Pregnancy-induced Hypertension among 4 Maternal and Child Hospitals |
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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to develop criteria for predicting risk of pregnancy induced hypertension in pregnant women attending prenatal services and delivering their babies at 4 Maternal and Child Hospitals (Ratchaburi, Khon Kaen, Yala and Nakhon Sawan). During the 18 months between 1 st May 1993 and 31 st January 1995, a cohort of 1,760 gravidae were enrolled in this study to determine the association among risk factors and pregnancy-induced hypertension and to develop risk scores as a predictor of this condition. The incidence of pregnancy-induced hypertension among all study subjects was 15%. Mean arterial pressure, average weight gain, prepregnancy body mass index (small body frame), maternal age, past illness and genetic factors were the significant predictors of pregnancy-induced hypertension. The risk scores calculated from the 6 predictors varied between 1 and 6. Pregnant women with a medium and a high risk level (risk scores of 2-3 and 4-6, respectively) were 2.4 and 6.4 times more likely to develop PIH as compared to those with a low risk level (risk score of 0-1), respectively. An optimal risk scores of ≥ 2 is recommended for screening purposes in all levels of institutions providing health care services, in order to identify the at risk pregnant women. Appropriate advice and treatment can be given to those at risk women during the antenatal visits.