

Magnesium sulfate is administered as an IV loading dose followed by a continuous infusion, with care taken in patients with impaired renal function or pulmonary edema. Randomized trial data demonstrate that magnesium is superior to phenytoin and diazepam in reducing the risk of seizure. Women who have had preeclampsia appear to be at increased risk of cardiovascular disease later in life.

■ CHRONIC HYPERTENSION

Pregnancy complicated by chronic hypertension is associated with risks to mother and neonate. Pregnant women with chronic hypertension are at increased risk for superimposed preeclampsia and placental complications including intrauterine growth restriction and placental abruption. Women with chronic hypertension should have a thorough prepregnancy evaluation to identify remediable causes of hypertension and to transition off of antihypertensive agents associated with adverse outcomes in pregnancy. Labetalol and extended-release nifedipine are the most commonly used medications for the treatment of chronic hypertension in pregnancy. The target blood pressure is in the range of 130–150 mmHg systolic and 80–100 mmHg diastolic to balance maternal safety with fetal perfusion. A preconception or early pregnancy assessment for end-organ impacts of hypertension, including the presence of proteinuria, may help differentiate the effects of chronic hypertension from those of superimposed preeclampsia. There are no convincing data that the treatment of mild chronic hypertension improves perinatal outcome.

■ RENAL DISEASE

Normal pregnancy is characterized by an increase in glomerular filtration rate and creatinine clearance secondary to a rise in renal plasma flow and increased glomerular filtration pressures. Patients with underlying renal disease may expect a worsening of existing hypertension or development of preeclampsia during pregnancy. A prepregnancy serum creatinine level $<133 \mu\text{mol/L}$ ($<1.5 \text{ mg/dL}$) is associated with a favorable prognosis, whereas certain pathologies, such as those associated with glomerular disease, increase the risk