

# Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome in a Patient with Eclampsia

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## Abstract

**Background:** Posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES) is a clinical and neuroradiological condition associated with variable predisposing risk factors including preeclampsia and eclampsia. Cerebrovascular events in preeclampsia/eclampsia encompass a spectrum of severity, with reversible vasogenic edema at one extreme and irreversible cytotoxic edema and cerebral ischemia at the other.

**Case report:** A 24 years old woman was admitted in the Infectious Diseases department with a Glasgow coma scale of 5-6. She was a healthy primigravida with a singleton pregnancy. However, at week 27 of pregnancy after evaluating her health condition (systolic pressure 170 mm Hg and diastolic blood pressure 105 mm Hg, with edema of the feet and ankles and a

highly fluctuating tension, severe swelling of the hands and face) and the poor development of fetus, the obstetricians decided to terminate the pregnancy. The next day she developed altered mental status and two episodes of generalized tonic-clonic convulsions without neurological deficit. She was transferred to intensive care unit of Infectious Disease Service. The Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) performed after seizures showed subcortical bilateral hypersignals in T2 and FLAIR in left temporal and bilateral occipital lobes. According to clinical, image and laboratory findings we defined the case as Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome in a patient with eclampsia. Treatment consisted of supportive therapy. The patient was discharged from the

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hospital after thirty-four days in relatively good condition.

**Conclusion:** Patients with eclampsia and preeclampsia may present with PRES and MRI is essential for the diagnosis. Treatment is mainly supportive but crucial in treating the underlying causes.

**Keywords:** Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome, Eclampsia, Abortion, Pregnancy, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Albania