

INTRODUCTION

Hypertensive disorders in pregnancy are common complications. They constitute one of the triad of pregnancy complications namely haemorrhage, hypertension and sepsis, that is responsible for the majority of maternal deaths. As a cause of perinatal death, hypertensive disorders are even more important (Gant et al., 1980).

The term "pregnancy - induced hypertension (PIH)", has been adopted to replace the diagnostic labels preeclampsia and eclampsia (Welt et al., 1978), but in fact, preeclampsia and eclampsia are two categories of PIH.

Good prenatal supervision, with early detection of signs and symptoms of incipient preeclampsia, followed by appropriate treatment will sufficiently ameliorate many cases of pregnancy - induced hypertension that the outcome for the baby and mother is satisfactory (Pritchard and Mac Donald, 1980).