Proton Pump Inhibitors Use and Risk of Preeclampsia: A Meta-Analysis

Salman Hussain 1,*, Ambrish Singh 2, Benny Antony 2, Jitka Klugarová 1, M. Hassan Murad 3, Aarthi S. Jayraj 4, Alena Langaufová 1, and Miloslav Klugar 1,*

1 Czech National Centre for Evidence-Based Healthcare and Knowledge Translation (Cochrane Czech Republic, Czech EBHC: JBI Centre of Excellence, Masaryk University GRADE Centre), Institute of Biostatistics and Analyses, Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic, Kamenice 5, 62500 Brno, Czech Republic
2 Menzies Institute for Medical Research, University of Tasmania, 17 Liverpool St, Hobart, TAS 7000, Australia
3 Division of Public Health, Infectious Diseases and Occupational Medicine, Mayo Clinic, 200 1st St SW, Rochester, MN 55905, USA
4 Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi 110029, India
* Correspondence: mohammad.hussain@med.muni.cz (S.H.); klugar@med.muni.cz (M.K.)

Abstract: Evidence from preclinical studies suggests a preventive effect of proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) in preeclampsia. Recently, several epidemiological studies have described a conflicting association between the use of PPIs during pregnancy and preeclampsia risk. This study aimed to evaluate the association between PPI use and the risk of preeclampsia. We searched databases, including MEDLINE, Embase, Scopus, Web of Science Core Collection, Emcare, CINAHL, and the relevant grey literature from inception until 13 September 2021. Studies reporting the preeclampsia risk with the use of PPIs were eligible for inclusion. Literature screening, data extraction, and the risk of bias assessment were performed independently by two investigators. Random-effect meta-analysis was performed to generate relative risks (RR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI). The risk of preeclampsia and preterm preeclampsia among women receiving PPIs during pregnancy were the primary outcomes of interest. This meta-analysis comprised three studies involving 4,877,565 pregnant women, of whom 119,017 were PPI users. The included studies were judged to have a low risk of bias. The risk of preeclampsia among pregnant women who received PPIs anytime during pregnancy was significantly increased (RR 1.27 (95% CI: 1.23–1.31)), although the increase was trivial in absolute terms (2 per 1000). The subgroup analysis revealed that the risk was increased in each of the three trimesters. The risk of preterm preeclampsia among pregnant women receiving PPIs anytime during pregnancy was not significantly increased (RR 1.04 (95% CI: 0.70–1.55)). The certainty evaluated by GRADE in these estimates was low. PPI use may be associated with a trivial increase in the risk of preeclampsia in pregnant women. There is no evidence supporting that PPI use decreases the risk of preeclampsia or preterm preeclampsia.

Keywords: hypertension; preeclampsia; proton pump inhibitors; PPIs; pregnancy; meta-analysis

1. Introduction

Preeclampsia is one of the most severe complications of pregnancy characterized by high blood pressure. It is one of the leading causes of maternal morbidity and mortality worldwide. The global burden of preeclampsia is continuously rising; epidemiological trends showed a 10.9% increase in the incidence of preeclampsia from 1990 to 2019 [1]. Preeclampsia leads to adverse maternal and perinatal outcomes, including preterm birth, prolonged hospital stays, low birthweight babies, and a higher risk of neonatal intensive care unit admission [2]. Preterm birth imposes a significant mortality risk on the mother and the baby [3]. Several database studies have reported a positive association between preterm birth and mortality and morbidity in both the mother and the baby [4,5]. There
are no definitive treatment options available for preeclampsia management, except for the timely delivery of the fetus and placenta.

Evidence from preclinical studies suggests a plausible preventive effect of proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) in preeclampsia [6–8]. The potential mechanism of this protective effect of PPIs in managing preeclampsia could be due to the reduction in the mRNA expression and secretion of antiangiogenic factors (sFlt1) and soluble endoglin (sEng) in placental endothelial cells, as these are the key component involved in the pathophysiology of preeclampsia [7,9,10]. This mechanistic association was supported by the findings of a recently published prospective cohort study where lower levels of sFLT-1 and sEng were noticed among pregnant PPI users with suspected preeclampsia [11]. PPIs are commonly used to treat gastroesophageal reflux disorder (GERD); however, in the last decade, the safety of PPIs has been a matter of scrutiny [12]. Our previous systematic reviews and meta-analyses found PPI use to be associated with several other non-pregnancy-related adverse health outcomes [13–16]. Nevertheless, PPIs are widely used by pregnant women due to their acceptable safety profiles and their availability as over-the-counter (OTC) drugs in many countries [17]. The evidence from cohort studies and a meta-analysis supported the PPI safety profiles among women who used PPIs during pregnancy and found no increased risk of congenital defects or preterm delivery [18,19].

Recently, several epidemiological studies examined the association of PPIs with preeclampsia risk [20–22]. A large cohort study from the US using the Truven Health MarketScan database found no association of PPIs with a decreased risk of preeclampsia or severe preterm preeclampsia [22]. Similar findings were reported by Choi et al. using the Korean Healthcare database [21]. However, a Swedish population register-based cohort study found reduced preterm and early preeclampsia risk in women who used PPIs in the third trimester [20]. These published studies presented conflicting evidence, and to date, no meta-analysis has been performed to explore this association, as confirmed through a preliminary search in multiple databases. Therefore, this systematic review and meta-analysis aimed to synthesize the evidence and assess the overall risk of preeclampsia in women using PPIs during pregnancy.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Protocol

The protocol for this systematic review was prospectively published as a preprint at medRxiv [23]. The principles laid down in the Cochrane Handbook of Systematic Review of Interventions and the JBI reviewers manual were utilized [24,25]. Preferred reporting items for systematic review and meta-analysis (PRISMA 2020) and meta-analysis of observational studies in epidemiology (MOOSE) reporting guidelines were followed [26,27]. Refer to Supplementary Table S1 for the detailed checklist.

2.2. Search Strategy

The literature search was conducted in each database from the inception date to 13 September 2021 to identify published and unpublished studies assessing preeclampsia risk in women receiving PPIs during pregnancy. The three-step search strategy was used; an initial limited search was conducted in MEDLINE (Ovid) and Embase (Ovid), using keywords and index terms related to PPIs and preeclampsia without restriction to any date or language; then, a detailed search was performed across all major databases by analyzing the text words and index terms used to describe the articles. We searched MEDLINE (Ovid), Embase (Ovid), Scopus, Web of Science Core Collection, Emcare (Ovand id), and CINAHL (EBSCO). The sources of grey literature were ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global and clinical trials registers, ClinicalTrials.gov (accessed on 13 September 2021), and the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP). Search strings were developed by a medical information specialist (AL). Lastly, bibliographies of the relevant articles were scanned manually for additional articles. The search strategies used for different databases were provided in Supplementary Table S2 with their respective hits.
2.3. Study Selection/Inclusion Criteria

Two reviewers independently reviewed the retrieved articles based on title and abstract screening, which was followed by second-level screening based on full-text articles. Covidence systematic review software was used for completing the article screening process [28].

Studies were eligible for inclusion if they met the inclusion criteria mentioned in Table 1:

| Table 1. Eligibility criteria for the selection of articles. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Criterion** | **Inclusion Criteria** | **Exclusion Criteria** |
| Population | Pregnant women at any stage of gestation | Non-pregnant women |
| Exposure | Exposure to any proton pump inhibitors | Drugs other than proton pump inhibitors |
| Omeprazole | Esomeprazole | Pantoprazole |
| Rabeprazole | Lansoprazole | DEXLansoprazole |
| Ilaprazole | | |
| Comparator | Nonexposure or exposure to H2RA antagonist | N/A |
| Outcomes | Studies reporting: | Studies reporting any other outcomes: |
| Preeclampsia risk at any stage of pregnancy | Cost-effectiveness | |
| Preterm preeclampsia risk | HRQoL | |
| Study design | Studies assessing preeclampsia risk, including: | Following was excluded: |
| Retrospective cohort | Animal studies | In vitro studies |
| Prospective cohort | Literature reviews | Pharmacodynamic and pharmokinetic studies |
| Case–control studies | | |
| Time period | Studies published until September 2021 | N/A |

H2RA: Histamine 2 receptors antagonist; HRQoL: Health-related quality of life; N/A: Not applicable.

2.4. Data Extraction and Risk of Bias

Two reviewers independently extracted all the relevant data based on the study characteristics (author, publication year, data source, and study period); details on patient characteristics; exposure; comparator; ascertainment of PPI use; confirmation of outcome; effect estimates (unadjusted and adjusted risk); and conclusions. Any discrepancy during the data extraction process was resolved by discussion. There was no missing data, so none of the primary authors was contacted for any additional data.

The risk of bias in the included studies was evaluated using the Newcastle–Ottawa Scale (NOS) independently by two reviewers [29]. According to the NOS, a study can achieve a maximum of 4 points in the selection, 2 points in the comparability, and 3 points in the exposure (case–control studies) or outcome (cohort studies) domain of the scale. Studies were classified as having a high, moderate, or low risk of bias, depending on the adjustment for appropriate confounders and the adequacy of the exposure and outcome ascertainment and not based on a numerical score [30].

2.5. Certainty of Evidence

We used the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) methodology to assess the certainty of evidence [31]. The certainty assessment was judged as either high, moderate, low, or very low, based on the risk of bias, inconsistency, indirectness, imprecision, and publication bias.
2.6. Statistical Analysis

The primary outcome of interest was to assess the pooled relative risk of preeclampsia among women receiving PPIs during pregnancy. The risk ratio (RR) and odds ratio were used interchangeably, as PPI use and preeclampsia events were very rare [32]. Heterogeneity was determined based on Cochrane chi-square and I² statistics [33]. The Cochrane chi-square value ($p < 0.10$) and I² statistics $\geq 50\%$ represent important heterogeneity [33]. Since we anticipated heterogeneity in terms of the population characteristics and settings of the studies, we used the random effect model. A subgroup analysis was performed based on the trimester of pregnancy and preterm and term preeclampsia. The leave-one-out method was used to understand the impact of each study on the pooled effect size. Meta-regression and statistical evaluation of the publication bias using funnel plot approaches were not feasible due to the limited number of studies. Review Manager (RevMan) version 5.4.1 was used to perform the meta-analysis using the generic inverse variance method. Summary of the findings table was created using the GRADEpro GDT tool [34].

3. Results

3.1. Studies Characteristics

The database search yielded 600 articles; three studies [20–22] involving 4,877,565 pregnant women, of whom 119,017 were PPI users, were included in the meta-analysis. A list of articles excluded with exclusion reasons during the full-text screening phase are presented in Supplementary Table S3. Refer to the PRISMA chart (Figure 1) for the study inclusion process.

The design of the three studies was a retrospective cohort design, and they were published within the time frame of 2019–2021. All the eligible studies were published as a full text, except the study by Choi et al., published as a research letter. Included studies were conducted in the US, Sweden, and Korea. PPI exposure was defined as exposure to PPIs at any time during pregnancy or individually during the first, second, and third trimesters. Studies ascertained the PPI exposure through prescription records or claims data, and the outcome of preeclampsia was confirmed based on the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) code—9th or 10th edition. Refer to Table 2 for a detailed description of the included study characteristics.

3.2. Quality Assessment and Certainty of Evidence

The risk of bias in the three included studies was low. All the included studies selected the patients and control from the same databases and adjusted for several possible confounding factors. The details of this assessment are presented in Table 3. The certainty of the evidence on the risk of preeclampsia and preterm preeclampsia among women receiving PPIs during pregnancy was low to very low, as per the GRADE rating system (Table 4a,b). Of note, the absolute effects were trivial or very small.

3.3. Meta-Analysis (Preeclampsia Risk)

The risk of preeclampsia among pregnant women who received PPIs anytime during pregnancy was statistically significantly increased (Figure 2a) with a pooled RR of 1.27 (95% CI: 1.23–1.31), $p < 0.00001$ in an adjusted analysis (adjusted for several possible confounding factors).
The subgroup analysis revealed a statistically significantly higher risk of preeclampsia in pregnant women receiving PPIs in each of the three trimesters (Figure 2b). All the analyses were adjusted for maternal age, chronic kidney disease, autoimmune disease, multiple gestation, pregestational diabetes, chronic hypertension, nulliparity, and multiple pregnancies.
Figure 2. (a) Preeclampsia risk in women exposed to PPIs anytime during pregnancy. (b) Preeclampsia risk in women exposed to PPIs in different trimesters of pregnancy.

3.4. Meta-Analysis (Preterm Preeclampsia Risk)

Two studies reported data for the preterm preeclampsia risk among pregnant women receiving PPIs anytime during pregnancy, and the pooled estimate (Figure 3a) revealed a nonsignificant association ($p = 0.83$).

The subgroup analysis based on the use of PPIs in various trimesters and the risk of preterm preeclampsia (Figure 3b) revealed a significantly higher risk in the second trimester, with a pooled relative risk of 1.32 (95% CI: 1.19–1.46), $p < 0.00001$. However, the association was nonsignificant in the first or third trimesters.
3.5. Sensitivity Analysis

A sensitivity analysis was performed by excluding each study one by one (leave-one-out) from the pooled analysis. None of the studies had any significant influence on the pooled effect size. The RR for preeclampsia was identical to the main results.
### Table 2. Characteristics of the included studies.

| Author, Year & Country | Study Design, Setting | Study Duration | Database/Source | Participants | Exposure | Comparator | Outcomes | Cohort Size | Definition of PPI Exposure | Assessment of PPI Use | Effect Estimates | Conclusion |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------|------------|----------|-------------|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Bello et al., 2020, LS [12] | Cohort study | 2008 to 2014 | Truven Health MarketScan database | Women receiving PPIs during pregnancy in the Truven Health MarketScan Database | PPI user (ranitidine, lansoprazole, omeprazole, pantoprazole, dexlansoprazole, and rabeprazole) | No-exposure to PPIs | Diagnosis of preeclampsia | Total: 2,750,885 | PPI user: 43,717, Non-PPI user: 2,696,668 | PPI exposure any time during pregnancy or individually during the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd trimesters | Outpatient pharmaceutical claims data | Maternal age, and the five clinical characteristics (chronic kidney disease, anemia, chronic disease, multiple gestations, and chronic hypertension) | PPI prescription during pregnancy was not associated with decreased risk for preeclampsia |
| Choi et al., 2021, KBN [11] | Cohort study | 2011 to 2017 | Health Insurance Review and Assessment database | Women receiving PPIs during pregnancy in Korea's healthcare database | Use of any PPI, including omeprazole, esomeprazole, pantoprazole, liaprazole, lansoprazole, dexlansoprazole, or ilaprazole at any point across gestation | PPI prescription in 4 windows: any time during pregnancy, first, second, and third trimester | Diagnosis of preeclampsia | Total: 1,963,960 | PPI user: 69,249, Non-PPI user: 1,894,711 | PPI use: 1.56 (1.42, 1.71) | Adjusted for Maternal age and insurance type, nulliparity, multiple gestations, CCI, indicators for acid suppressive medications, including gastrosophageal reflux disease, heartburn, ulcer (e.g., various ulcers and ZES), maternal medical conditions (e.g., asthma, anxiety, depression, and chronic hypertension), inflammatory disease, migraine headach, renal disease, thyroid disorder, concurrent medications, and proxies of health care utilization | PPI use during pregnancy was not associated with a reduced risk for preeclampsia |
Table 2. Cont.

| Author, Year & Country | Study Design, Setting | Study Duration | Database/Source | Participants | Exposure | Comparator | Outcomes | Cohort Size | Definition of PPI Exposure | Ascertainment of PPI Use | Assessment of Outcome | Effect Estimates | Conclusion |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------|
| Hastie et al., 2019, Sweden [20] | Cohort study | 2013 to 2017 | Swedish pregnancy register | Women receiving PPIs during pregnancy in Swedish pregnancy register | Use of any PPI, including omeprazole, esomeprazole, pantoprazole, or lansoprazole at any point across gestation | Non-PPI users | Diagnosis of preeclampsia | Total: 157,720 PPI user: 6051 Non-PPI user: 151,669 | PPI use was categorized by use ever during pregnancy, first trimester (0–12 weeks of gestation), second trimester (13–27 weeks), and third trimester (from 28 weeks of gestation onward). | Based on the prescription record maintained in Swedish pregnancy register | Preeclampsia was identified by the diagnosis codes O14 or O15 according to International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision coding (n = 7258) | ** | PPIs have a potential role in preventing preterm preeclampsia |

Table 3. Quality assessment of the included studies.

| Cohort Studies | Selection | Comparability | Outcome |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|---------|
| **Study author** | Representation of the exposed cohort | Selection of the non-exposed cohort | Ascertainment of exposure | Demonstration that outcome of interest was not present at the start of the study | Comparability of cohorts on the basis of design or analysis | Assessment of outcome | Was follow-up long enough for outcomes to occur | Accuracy of follow-up of cohorts | Overall risk of bias |
| Bello, 2020, US [22] | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | Low |
| Choi, 2021, Korea [21] | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | Low |
| Hastie, 2019, Sweden [20] | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | Low |

* = this symbol represents the number of stars given to each category according to the star-based scoring systems employed to assess the risk of bias of each study as detailed in the Section 2.4 in the main text.
Table 4. (a) Summary of the findings table showing the certainty of the evidence for preeclampsia risk in women exposed to PPIs (anytime during pregnancy) compared to non-PPIs. (b) Summary of the findings table showing the certainty of the evidence for preterm preeclampsia risk in women exposed to PPIs (anytime during pregnancy) compared to non-PPIs.

| № of Patients | Effect | Certainty |
|---------------|--------|-----------|
| Preeclampsia | 2 more per 1000 (from 2 more to 2 more) | Low |
| Absolute CI | (95% CI) |
| RR | (1.23 to 1.31) |
| Relative CI | 1.27 |
| Certainty Assessment | 🟦🟢 | |
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Table 5. List of ongoing clinical trials.

| Trial Number | Trial Name or Title                                                                 | Methods                                                                 | Participants                                                                 | Interventions                                                                 | Outcomes                                                                 | Start Date | Recruitment Status | Link to Trials |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| NCT03717740  | Esomeprazole for the Prevention of Preeclampsia                                    | Randomized double-blinded placebo-controlled intervention trial       | Pregnant women presenting prior to 17 + 0 weeks’ gestation with moderate to high risk of preeclampsia | Esomeprazole single dose of 40 mg orally once a day from 12+ and 17 weeks of pregnancy until 34 weeks of pregnancy | Primary Outcome Measures: Number of Participants With early onset Preeclampsia Secondary Outcome Measures: Prevention of preeclampsia between 37 and 41; The number of cases of Fetal Growth Restriction; The number of cases of preterm birth | 1 December 2018 | Recruiting         | https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03717740 (accessed on 4 October 2021) |
| NCT03717701  | Metformin and Esomeprazole in Treatment of Early Onset Preeclampsia               | Randomized double-blinded placebo-controlled intervention trial       | Pregnant women presenting at a Gestational age between 28 + 0 weeks and 32 + 0 weeks presented with preterm preeclampsia | Metformin 1000 mg orally once a day; Esomperazole 40 mg orally once a day | Prolongation of gestation measured from the time of enrollment to the time of delivery Secondary Outcome Measures: Severe morbidity; The change in serum level of sFlt-1 and endoglin; Any side effects | 1 December 2018 | Recruiting         | https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03717701 (accessed on 4 October 2021) |
| NCT0324838   | Esomeprazole With Sildenafil Citrate in Women With Early-onset Preeclampsia       | Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial                    | Pregnant women presenting at a Gestational age between 28 + 0 weeks and 32 + 0 weeks presented with preterm preeclampsia | Patients will take esomeprazole single dose of 40 mg orally once a day; Patients will take Sildenafil Citrate 40 mg every 8 h; other comparators | Prolongation of gestation measured from the time of enrollment to the time of delivery Secondary outcome measures: Severe morbidity; Side effects; The change in serum level of sFlt-1 and endoglin | 1 December 2018 | Recruiting         | https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03724838 (accessed on 4 October 2021) |
| EUCTR2018-000283-28-NL or Netherland Trial Register L7738 | Potential effect of proton pump inhibitor on angiogenic markers in preeclampsia a pilot study | Randomised controlled trial                                             | Women with (≥ 18 years) with a singleton pregnancy diagnosed with PE with a gestational age of ≥ 20 weeks and ≤ 38 weeks | Omeprazole | The difference in sFlt-1 levels in women who have received PPI, in comparison to women who have not received PPI, at different time points. Secondary outcome measures: The change in serum levels of PlGF, sEndoglin, ET-1 and CT-proET-1 levels between PPI and non-PPI groups at different time points (before and after administration); The change in cord blood levels of sFlt-1, PlGF, sEndoglin, ET-1 and CT-proET-1 at time of delivery between PPI and non-PPI group | 17 December 2018 | Ongoing           | https://www.clinicaltrialregister.eu/ctr-search/trial/2018-000283-28-NL (accessed on 4 October 2021) https://www.trialregister.nl/trial/7718 (accessed on 4 October 2021) |
| BCT2017022335680N2 | The evaluation of esomeprazole efficacy in treatment of early onset preeclampsia | Randomized, single-blind, placebo-controlled trial                    | Pregnant women with hypertensive Pregnancy and the gestational age between 26 to 32 weeks with single-crowned pregnancy | The intervention group received 12 mg Betamethasone in two doses every 24 h plus prescribed 40 mg omeprazole daily; The control group received 12 mg, Betamethasone in two doses every 24 h plus prescribed 40 mg placebo daily | Primary outcome measure: Duration of admission to delivery Secondary outcome measure: Frequency of maternal and fetal complications in patients with preeclampsia; Biomarker level of tyrosine kinase and endoglycine | 18 April 2017 | Ongoing           | https://en.irct.ir/trial/25917 (accessed on 4 October 2021) |
| Trial Number   | Trial Name or Title                                                                 | Methods                                                                 | Participants                                                                 | Interventions                                                                 | Outcomes                                                                 | Start Date | Recruitment Status | Link to Trials                                      |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| ChiCTR1900026972 | A randomized controlled trial for efficacy of esomeprazole in the treatment of early-onset preeclampsia | Randomized controlled trial                                             | Pregnant women with gestational age between 26 + 0 weeks and 33 + 6 weeks, Diagnosis of pre-eclampsia, gestational hypertension. | Forty milligrams of esomeprazole+ Standard treatment vs. control group | Primary outcome measure: Duration of admission to delivery Secondary outcome measure: The change in levels of sFlt-1, and sEndoglin | 1 January 2020 | Recruiting         | [Link](https://www.chictr.org.cn/showprojen.aspx?proj=44939) (accessed on 4 October 2021) |
| ACTRN12618000690257 | A Prospective, Pre-eLampsia/Eclampsia Prevention Intervention                        | Multi-centre, double blind, randomised, placebo-controlled trial       | Nulliparous women with singleton pregnancy (12-20 weeks)                      | Forty milligrams of oral esomeprazole tablets once daily                       | Primary outcome measure: Incidence of preeclampsia Secondary outcome measure: • Incidence of term preeclampsia • Gestation of pregnancy at delivery • Gestational hypertensive adverse outcomes • Exploratory measurement of preeclampsia-related maternal biomarkers (sFlt-1, sEng, PIGF, ET-1 and VCAM-1) • Others | 31 October 2018 | Recruiting         | [Link](https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?id=374798) (accessed on 4 October 2021) |
| ACTRN12618000750224 | Can esomeprazole improve outcomes in women at high risk of pre-eclampsia? The ESPRESSO Study | Multi-centre, double blind, randomised, placebo-controlled superiority trial | Pregnant women screened at 11 - 0 to 13 + 6 weeks gestation and at high risk (>1%) of pre-eclampsia | Esomeprazole 40 mg oral tablet once a day prior to 16 weeks gestation and continuing until delivery of pregnancy. Aspirin 150 mg oral tablet at night, commencing prior to 16 weeks gestation and continuing until 36 weeks gestation as a background therapy | Primary outcome measures: Mean arterial pressure, measured by 24h ambulatory blood pressure at 36 weeks of gestation Secondary outcome measures: • Circulating sFlt-1, sEng, PIGF, sFlt-1/PIGF ratio concentrations at 36 weeks of gestation • Blood pressure and proteinuria • Weight of the baby, Apgar score, neonatal hospital discharge | 18 April 2019 | Recruiting         | [Link](https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?id=575086) (accessed on 4 October 2021) |
5. Conclusions

PPIs use may be associated with a trivial increase in the risk of preeclampsia in pregnant women. There is no evidence supporting that PPI use decreases the risk of preeclampsia or preterm preclampsia. We recommend that future epidemiological studies consider all possible confounding factors, including the BMI. Furthermore, future population-based studies should ascertain the risk of preeclampsia and preterm preclampsia separately by including a sufficiently large number of (preeclampsia and preterm preeclampsia) cases. The ongoing clinical trials of PPIs are expected to shed light on this important clinical question.

Supplementary Materials: The following are available online at https://www.mdpi.com/article/10.3390/jcm11164675/s1: Supplementary Table S1: PRISMA and MOOSE checklists. Table S2: Complete search strategy. Table S3: List of articles excluded with reasons during the full-text screening.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, S.H.; methodology, S.H. and M.H.M.; meta-analysis, S.H.; investigation, S.H. and M.K.; data curation, S.H. and A.S.; writing—original draft preparation, S.H.; writing—review and editing, S.H., A.S., B.A., M.H.M., A.S.J., A.L. and M.K.; visualization, S.H.; supervision, S.H.; project administration, S.H.; and funding acquisition, M.K. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: S.H. was supported by the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education–Project, Postdoc2MUNI (No. CZ.02.2.69/0.0/0.0/18_053/0016952). J.K. and M.K. were supported by the INTER-EXCELLENCE grant number LTC20031—“Towards an International Network for Evidence-based Research in Clinical Health Research in the Czech Republic”.

Institutional Review Board Statement: Ethical review and approval were waived for this study due to its observational nature and its use of publicly accessible data.

Informed Consent Statement: Not applicable.

Data Availability Statement: The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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