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REVIEWER'S REPORT

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Date: 17/02/2025

Title: Study of Clinical Profile and Ocular Changes of Patients Having Pregnancy-Induced Hypertension in a Tertiary Care Rural Hospital

Recommendation:

- Accept as it is
- ✓ Accept after minor revision.....
- Accept after major revision
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: Dr. S. K. Nath

Date: 18/02/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

The study addresses an important maternal health issue—Pregnancy-Induced Hypertension (PIH) and its ocular manifestations—providing valuable insights for obstetricians and ophthalmologists.

- **Scientific Merit:** Clinically valuable but needs statistical improvements.
- **Clarity & Readability:** Requires significant grammar and formatting revisions.
- **Usefulness to Clinicians:** Important findings for maternal and ophthalmic care.

Recommendations for Revision:

1. **Proofreading & Language Editing:** Improve sentence structure, grammar, and clarity.
2. **Enhancing Statistical Analysis:** Consider logistic regression to determine the strongest predictors of ocular changes. Clearly report p-values for statistically significant findings.
3. **Discuss Limitations & Implications:** Address selection bias, limitations of funduscopy, and inter-observer variability. Provide clinical recommendations on whether all PIH patients should undergo ophthalmic screening.
4. **Reformat Tables & Figures:** Improve table alignment and headings for easier readability. Explain Keith-Wagener-Barker grading of hypertensive retinopathy in Graph 2 for non-ophthalmology readers.

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Strengths:

1. **Relevant Clinical Study:** The study addresses an important maternal health issue—Pregnancy-Induced Hypertension (PIH) and its ocular manifestations—providing valuable insights for obstetricians and ophthalmologists.

REVIEWER'S REPORT

2. Well-Defined Objectives and Methodology: The aim is clearly stated: to study the clinical profile and ocular changes in PIH patients. The study design (descriptive cross-sectional) and inclusion/exclusion criteria are appropriately defined.

3. Data Collection and Statistical Analysis: A significant sample size (150 patients) strengthens the study's reliability. The use of statistical tests (Chi-square) helps establish associations between PIH severity and ocular changes.

4. Clear Presentation of Findings: The study effectively categorizes patients by age, gravida status, and PIH severity. Data tables and graphs clearly illustrate anterior and posterior segment ocular changes. The comparison with previous research strengthens the study's validity.

5. Clinical Significance: The study highlights that 30% of PIH patients had posterior segment changes, indicating that ocular examination could serve as an indirect marker of PIH severity.

Areas for Improvement:

1. Language and Grammar Issues: The manuscript contains numerous grammatical errors and awkward phrasing, affecting readability. Example: "Pregnancy induced hypertension (PIH) is the hypertension that develops as a direct result of gravid state."

Suggested revision: "Pregnancy-induced hypertension (PIH) refers to hypertension that develops due to pregnancy."

A professional language edit is recommended.

2. Study Limitations Not Fully Addressed: The study does not discuss potential biases (e.g., selection bias, inter-observer variability in fundus examination). The exclusion of patients with pre-existing hypertension is mentioned but its impact on study findings is not analyzed.

3. Lack of Statistical Depth: The study uses Chi-square tests but does not include logistic regression analysis to determine independent predictors of ocular changes. A p-value for significant results should be reported in the results section.

4. More Discussion on Clinical Implications Needed: The paper highlights ocular changes in PIH patients but does not explore how these findings could influence clinical management. Should ophthalmic evaluation be recommended for all PIH patients? If so, at what stage?

5. Formatting and Table Adjustments: Some tables lack clarity in labeling. For example, Table 4 should explicitly state the number of patients per severity group for easy reference. Graph 2 needs a better explanation regarding hypertensive retinopathy grades and their clinical significance.