Presentation:

Third trimester pregnancy in which the patient has tremor, hyperreflexia, elevated blood pressure and seizure. May have past history of pregnancy-induced hypertension either with the current pregnancy or prior pregnancy. Associated symptoms of vaginal bleeding, premature labor, or ruptured membranes.

Treatment:

1. Vital signs and O_2 at least at 2 l/min flow.
2. Cardiac monitor, watch for prolonged QT interval.
3. IV access.
4. Contact Medical Control
    a. Anticipate orders for Magnesium sulfate - Mix 4 grams in 250 ml D_5W and give over 10 minutes (1500ml/hr) for either seizure or signs of severe eclampsia.
    b. Request that labor and delivery be notified.
5. If the patient is actively seizing, administer benzodiazepines per the Seizure protocol.

Notes

1. Eclampsia is detrimental to the fetus.
2. Eclampsia may be a marker for other pregnancy complications such as placental bleeding.