

SINGAPORE

New study in Singapore to analyse link between women's health and pregnancy

A new large-scale study led by KK Women's and Children's Hospital will involve 1,000 local couples planning to have a baby.

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PHOTOS



This photo of a pregnant woman undergoing a checkup. (AFP/Claudio S. AFP)

CAPTION



SINGAPORE: A new large-scale study has been launched to look into how a woman's health, as well as other environmental factors – even before conception – can affect both her and her child.

KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH) is leading this study, named the Singapore PREconception Study of long-Term maternal and child Outcomes (S-PRESTO).

It is working with Singapore Institute for Clinical Science (SICS) of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the National University Health System (NUHS) for the research.

The research will involve 1,000 local couples planning to have a baby.

It will gather information from various stages, starting from the time before the women conceive, right up to when the child is two years old.

S-PRESTO follows on from a previous study, which focused only on the pregnancy stage.

Said Associate Professor Chong Yap Seng, Executive Director, SICS, A*STAR: "We found that one out of five women in the Gusto study developed gestational diabetes. Because of that, we want to see now in S-PRESTO, how the women's health before pregnancy is and what their chances of getting gestational diabetes are."

"Once we can understand that, then we actually start to modify their lifestyles and the nutrition and health status so we can prevent that condition from happening," he added.

Associate Professor Jerry Chan, a senior consultant at the Department of Reproductive Medicine at KKH, explained: "This study will extend until the baby is born, and up until they are two years of age. This will also allow us to really measure how the baby adapts to life with the mother, how the baby actually reacts with the mother, how their learning cognitive functions develop over time as well. One could then link this back to the mother's health status before she fell pregnant."

S-PRESTO is recruiting couples who meet the following criteria:

- Where the wife is 18 to 45 years old
- Currently residing in Singapore, and intending to reside in Singapore for the next five years
- Who are actively planning pregnancy
- Of Chinese, Malay or Indian ethnicity
- Intending to receive antenatal care and deliver at KKH

Those interested can visit www.s-presto.sg or call 1800-SPRESTO (1800-777-3786).

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