

Evaluation of cardiovascular function in women with a history of preeclampsia: a systematic review and meta-analysis

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Background

Women with a history of preeclampsia (PE) are at a 2-4 fold increased risk of chronic hypertension, heart failure, coronary artery disease and cardiovascular disease (CVD) related death. In 2011, the American Heart Association identified PE as a major risk factor for CVD in women. However, women with PE receive no routine postpartum cardiovascular follow up.

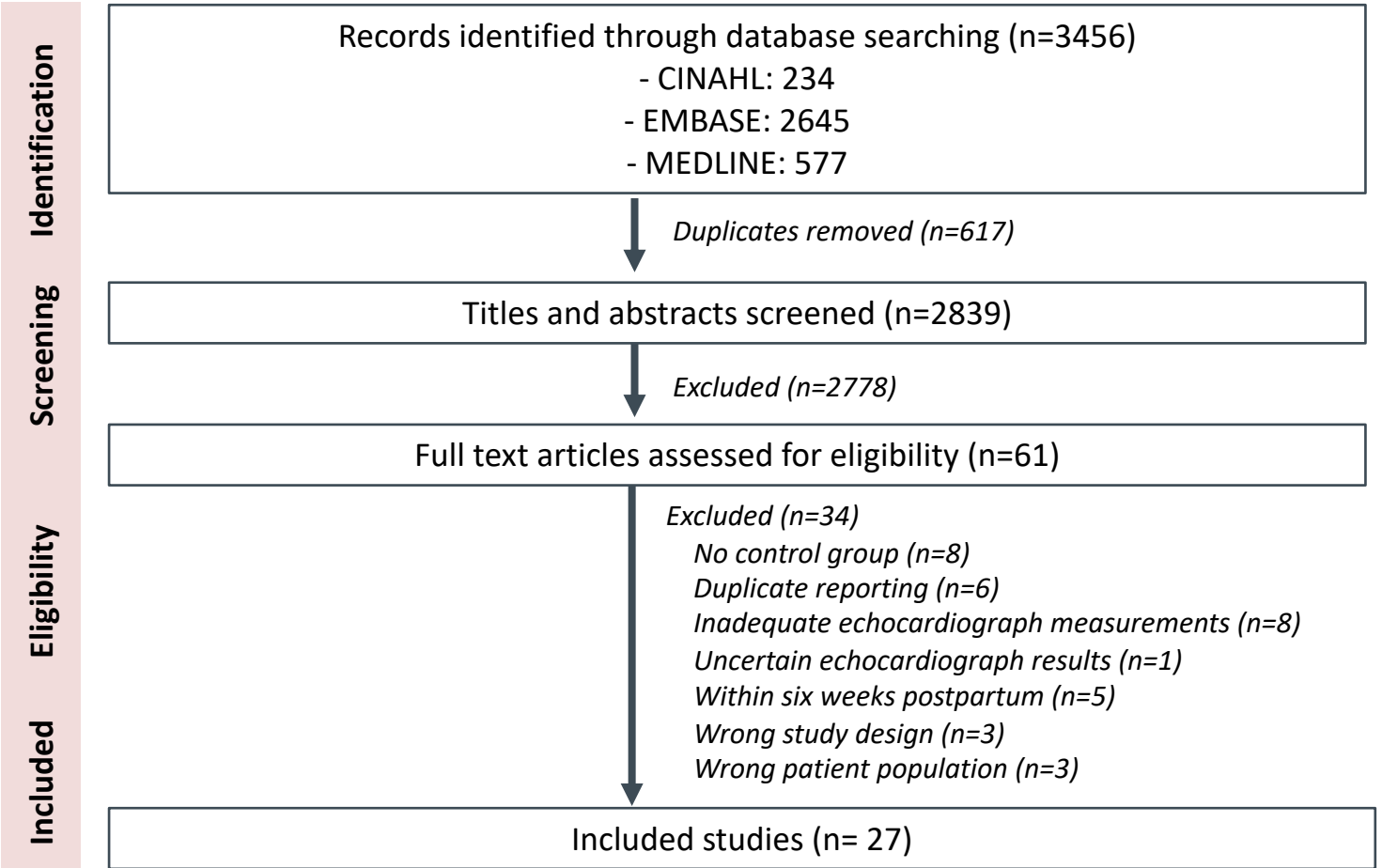
Objectives

To identify the echocardiograph changes seen in women with a history of PE in order to inform 1) further research, and 2) change in clinical practice guidelines to support or refute early cardiac investigations for women with a history of PE.

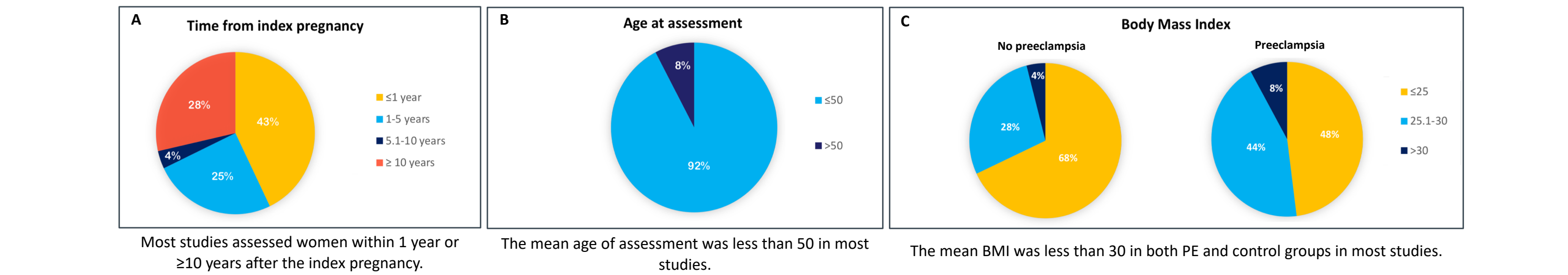
Methods

A systematic search of MEDLINE, EMBASE and CINAHL databases was performed to identify studies that examined cardiovascular function in women with a history of preeclampsia in comparison to those with normotensive pregnancies.

Methods

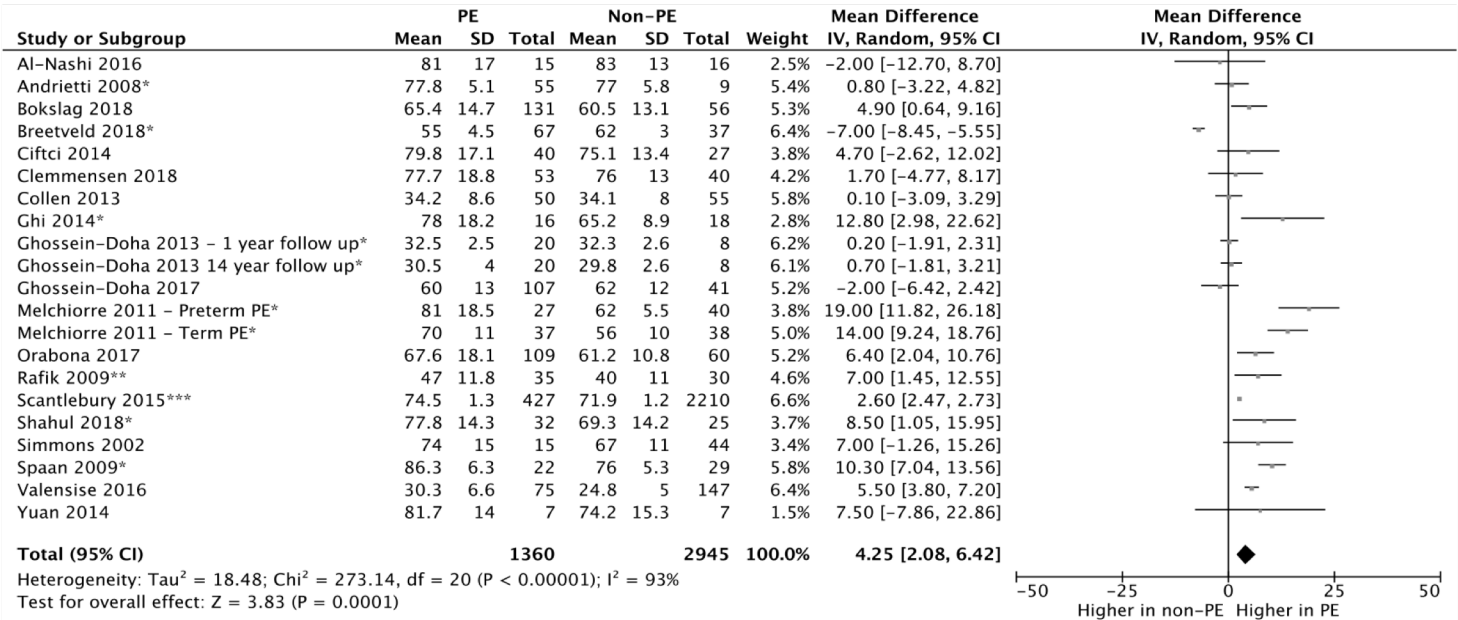


Results - Demographics



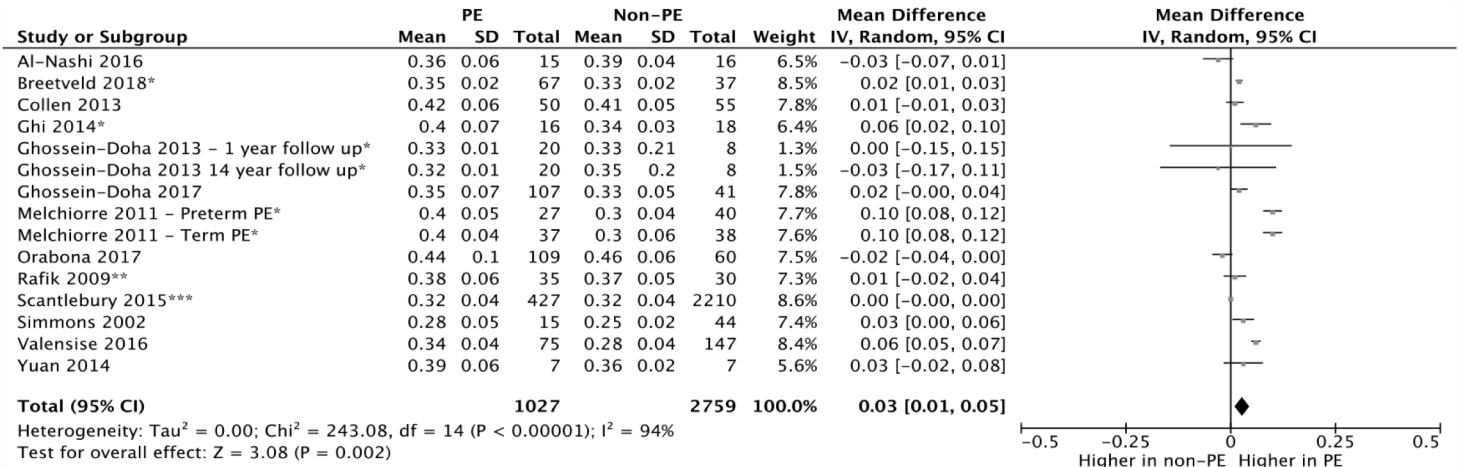
Results – Cardiac Indices

Left Ventricular Mass Index (g/m²)



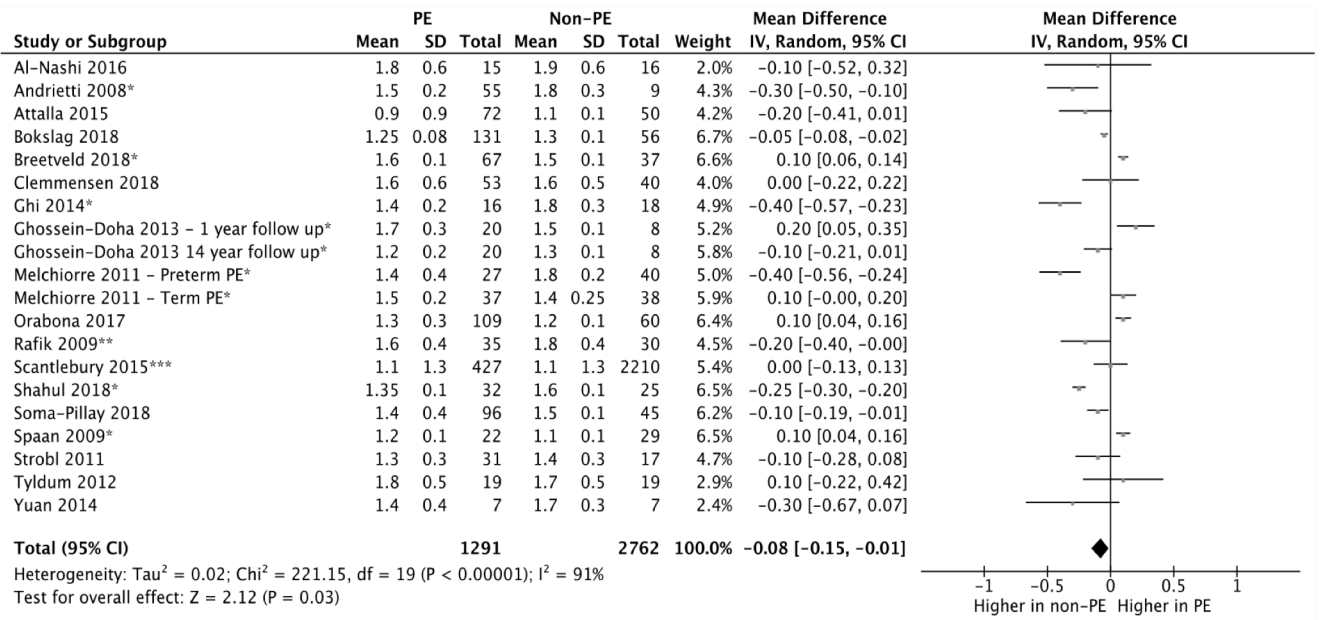
Women with a history of preeclampsia (PE) have a higher left ventricular mass index in comparison to the non-PE population.

Relative Wall Thickness



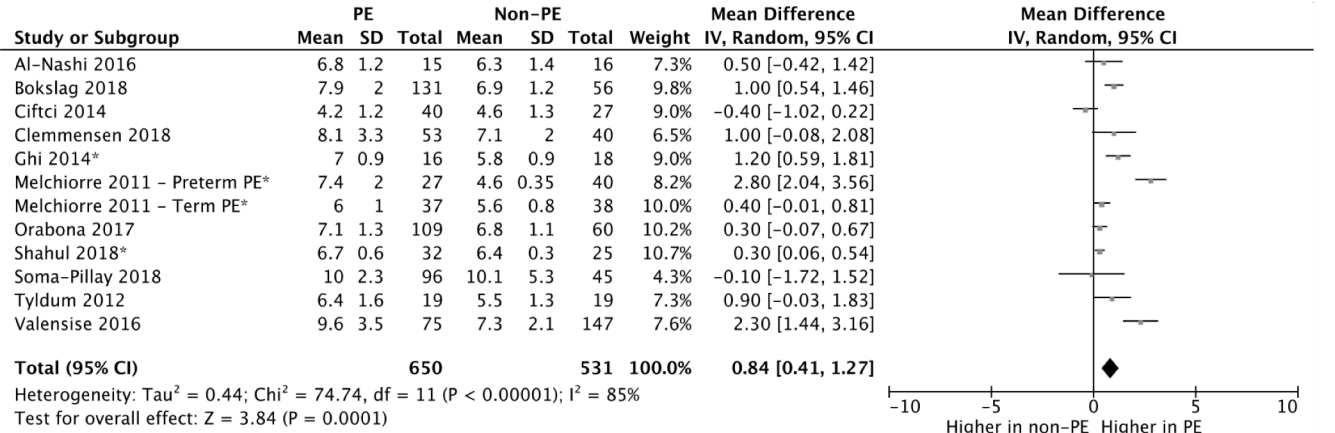
Women with a history of preeclampsia (PE) have a higher relative wall thickness in comparison to the non-PE population.

E/A ratio



Women with a history of preeclampsia (PE) have a lower E/A ratio in comparison to the non-PE population.

E/e' ratio



Women with a history of preeclampsia (PE) have a higher E/e' ration in comparison to the non-PE population.

Conclusion

In comparison to normotensive pregnancies, women with a history of PE show a trend to a higher left ventricular mass index, relative wall thickness and E/e' ratio, and a lower E/A ratio. However the studies included are small in sample size and show significant heterogeneity. Further studies with larger sample sizes, consistent echocardiograph reporting, and the use of more sensitive pre-clinical markers are required to assess the role of echocardiography in monitoring women with a history of PE.