

➤ **SOME POSSIBLE MATERNAL COMPLICATIONS DURING PREGNANCY**

- Minor ailments such as headaches, enlarged veins (varicose veins), sleep disturbances.
- **Toxemia** = about 7% of all pregnancies in last couple of months of pregnancy; can be caused by a high fat diet
 - Symptoms = excessive weight gain, edema (swelling), high blood pressure (hypertension). Early toxemia is called preeclampsia, later more severe toxemia is eclampsia. Eclampsia can lead to convulsions, coma and possible death; there is some evidence that exposure to “familiar” semen may reduce a woman’s chance of developing eclampsia
- **Diabetes Mellitus** = maternal onset diabetes; about 1 in 350 pregnancies; like Type II diabetes in which the cells of the mother do not respond to insulin leading to an increased blood sugar level causing excessive urine production. More dangerous to fetus than mother (in 30% of cases the fetus does not survive).
- **Ectopic Pregnancy** = implantation occurs outside of the uterus; ~96% of these are tubal pregnancies and 4% are abdominal pregnancies; causes pain and severe hemorrhage requiring surgical removal of the embryo; causes about 10% of all maternal deaths in the U.S.; in the abdomen, the fetus may accumulate calcium deposits to form a lithopedion or “stone baby” that are often not discovered until a later abdominal surgery is performed. Ectopic pregnancies are more common in older, multiparous white women, women that have had an abortion, endometriosis or pelvic infection
- **Hydatiform Mole** = occur in about 1 in 1000 pregnancies; triploid male embryos formed of swollen chorionic villi with no true embryo; secrete high amounts of hCG (looks like the woman is pregnant); can be malignant; removed surgically.
- **Septic Pregnancy** = bacterial infection of the uterus that can be dangerous to the mother and the fetus. The cervical mucous plug helps to prevent bacterial infection.