Claims

1. Use of a panel of biomarkers consisting of hemopexin (Hpx) and alpha-1-microglobulin (A1M) as biomarkers for preeclampsia.

2. Use according to claim 1 in predicting or diagnosing preeclampsia or for evaluating the risk of developing preeclampsia.

3. Use according to claim 1 as biomarkers for early or late onset of preeclampsia.

4. Use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said markers are measured in a blood, plasma, serum, cerebrospinal fluid, urine, placental biopsies, uterine fluid or amniotic fluid sample of a pregnant female.

5. Use according to claim 4, wherein said pregnant female has or is at increased risk of developing preeclampsia if the level of hemopexin in a plasma sample from the pregnant female is at least 1.1 times less than a reference value, the level of alpha-1-microglobulin is at least 1.1 times more than a reference value, and the reference values are determined in a pregnant female who do not suffer from or is at increased risk of developing preeclampsia at the same gestational age as the test sample or the reference values are adjusted to correlated with the gestational age of the test sample.

6. Use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the sample is taken from the pregnant female at a gestational age of 6-20 weeks.

7. Use according to any of claims 4-6, wherein said pregnant female has or is at increased risk of developing preeclampsia if the level of hemopexin in a plasma sample from the pregnant female taken at gestational age of 6-20 weeks is 1.0 mg/mL or less, and the level of alpha-1-microglobulin is 15.5 µg/mL or more

8. Use according to claims 1-5, wherein the sample is taken from the pregnant female at gestational age of 34-40 weeks.

9. Use according to claim 8, wherein said pregnant female has or is at increased risk of developing preeclampsia if the level of hemopexin in a plasma sample from the pregnant female taken at gestational age of 34-40 weeks is 0.85 mg/mL or less, and the level of alpha-1-microglobulin is 30 µg/mL or more.

10. A method for the diagnosis or aiding in the diagnosis of preeclampsia comprising the following steps:

(a) measuring the level of biomarkers Hpx and A1M in a biological sample isolated from a pregnant woman; and

(b) comparing the level of the measured biomarkers in the sample with a reference value

to determine if said pregnant female has or has not preeclampsia, or is or is not at increased risk of developing preeclampsia.

11. A method for monitoring the progression or regression of preeclampsia, comprising:

(a) measuring the level of biomarkers Hpx and A1M in a first biological sample such as a blood, urine or plasma sample, isolated from a pregnant female mammal;

(b) measuring the level Hpx and A1M in a second biological sample such as a blood, urine, serum or plasma sample, isolated from said pregnant female mammal at a later time;

and

(c) comparing the values measured in step (a) and (b), wherein

i) an increase in A1M level in the second sample relative to the level in the first sample, and

a decrease in Hpx level in the second sample relative to the level in the first sample,

indicates preeclampsia progression;

and

ii) a decrease in A1M level in the second sample relative to the level in the first sample, and

an increase in Hpx level in the second sample relative to the level in the first sample,

indicates preeclampsia regression.

12. The method according to any one of claims 10-11, wherein the sample (in claim 10) or the first sample (in claim 11) is taken at gestational age of at least 6 weeks.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the samples is taken from 6 to 20 weeks or from 12-14 weeks of gestation.

14. The method according to claim 12, wherein the sample is taken from 34 to 40 weeks.