

# HbA1c more than 5.9 percent can ID diabetes in early pregnancy

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(HealthDay)—An HbA1c threshold of  $\geq 5.9$  percent can identify all women with gestational diabetes in early pregnancy, according to a study published online Sept. 4 in *Diabetes Care*.

Ruth C.E. Hughes, M.B.B.Ch., from the University of Otago in New Zealand, and colleagues analyzed data from a group of women who completed an early oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) and HbA1c tests. Pregnancy outcome data were also assessed.

In 16,122 women, HbA1c was measured at a median of 47 days' gestation. Twenty-three percent of those offered (974 women) took an early OGTT, and in this subset all 15 cases of diabetes were identified with HbA1c  $\geq 5.9$  percent. For [gestational diabetes mellitus](#) before 20 weeks this threshold was 98.4 percent specific (positive predictive value,

52.9 percent). Excluding the women referred for [gestational diabetes](#), women with HbA1c of 5.9 to 6.4 percent had poorer pregnancy outcomes than those with HbA1c

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