

1 **Simultaneous profiling of oral and placenta microbiome in pregnant women with**  
2 **Preeclampsia: a cross-sectional study**

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29 Keywords: preeclampsia, placenta, microbiome, gut, pregnancy, oral, periodontal disease,  
30 periodontitis

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32 Short Title: Oral and Placental Microbiome in Preeclampsia

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35 **Abstract**

36 **Objective:** Preeclampsia (PE) is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in pregnancy with  
37 elusive etiology. The roles of oral and placental microbiome in PE are poorly understood.  
38 Our study is aim to determine the associations between the oral and placental microbiome in  
39 women with and without preeclampsia and periodontal disease (PD) and evaluate the systemic  
40 immune response in patients with and without PE and PD.

41 **Design:** Prospective, observational study

42 **Setting:** Multicenter English.

43 **Population:** Fifty-four pregnant patients with and without PE and PD were recruited.

44 **Methods:** The microbiome profiles of both oral subgingival region and placenta were  
45 characterized by V4 region of 16S rRNA gene sequencing. Systemic inflammation markers  
46 tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF- $\alpha$ ), C-reactive protein (CRP), lipopolysaccharide binding  
47 protein (LBP), interleukins 6 & 8 (IL-6, IL-8) in blood were measured by ELISA.

48 **Results:** PD significantly increased the risk of PE after adjustments for age, preterm delivery  
49 and smoking status (OR=2.26, 95% CI=1.14-4.48, p=0.024). A combined group of oral  
50 associated bacteria Veillonella, Fusobacterium, Haemophilus, Granulicatella, Streptococcus,  
51 Gemella and Neisseria in placenta had significantly higher prevalence in women with PE  
52 compared to women without PE (53.8% vs 19.0%, p=0.018), with the highest prevalence in  
53 patients with both PE and PD (58.8%). The relative abundances of Haemophilus, Veillonella  
54 and Fusobacterium in oral samples were significantly higher in patient with PE than those  
55 without PE. The relative abundances of Haemophilus in oral microbiome was associated with  
56 increased risk of PE (OR=2.11, 95% CI=1.11-4.52, p=0.032). Proinflammation cytokine analysis  
57 showed that PE patients with PD had higher blood IL-8 levels than PE patients without PD  
58 (p=0.028). CRP, LBP, TNF-alpha showed no statistical difference in patients with and without  
59 PE or PD. Blood IL-6 levels were significantly higher in patients with detectable placenta  
60 microbiome compared to those without placental microbiome (p= 0.028).

61 **Conclusion:** Oral-like microbiome was identified in placenta more frequently in patients with PE  
62 than those without PE. Placental microbiome is associated with systemic inflammation. High  
63 abundances of Haemophilus in oral cavity is associated with increased risk of PE.

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## 90 INTRODUCTION

91 Preeclampsia (PE) is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in pregnancy, complicating  
92 approximately 2-5% of pregnancies<sup>1-2</sup>. The etiology of PE remains unclear. The placenta has  
93 been considered as a central organ in the pathogenesis of PE.

94 Periodontal disease (PD), has been shown to be positively correlated with preeclampsia.

95 The prevalence of periodontal disease among pregnant women is approximately 40% with a  
96 higher prevalence of 60-70% among racial and ethnic minorities<sup>3-5</sup>. PD-associated bacteria can

97 potentiate an aggressive inflammatory response, even in extra-oral sites<sup>6,7</sup>. Hematogenous

98 spread of the oral bacteria to the placenta was theorized as an important source of amniotic

99 fluid and placental microbiome. It is possible that oral pathogens can transmit to the blood and

100 disseminate to placenta where the blood flow is slow. Indeed, oral bacteria *P. gingivalis* and *A.*

101 *actinomycetemcomitans* have been detected in amniotic fluid of pregnant women with

102 periodontitis<sup>8</sup>, and reported to be associated with placental infections in hypertensive women<sup>9</sup>.

103 A study showed patients with PE had higher levels of *Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans*,

104 *Fusobacterium nucleatum ssp.*, *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, *Prevotella intermedia*, *Tannerella*

105 *forsythensis*, and *Treponema denticola* in the placenta<sup>10,11</sup>. However, the study had a small

106 sample size and detected a limited number of periodontal disease-associated bacteria in

107 placenta using targeted PCR approach. To date, there is a lack of non-targeted global

108 characterization of placental microbiome and oral microbiome simultaneously in same patients

109 in PE. Furthermore, it is unclear about the relationship between placenta microbiome, if there is

110 any, with systemic inflammation in PE.

111 To have a deep understanding of those unresolved questions, we prospectively enrolled

112 patients according to their maternal diagnosis: preeclampsia/periodontal disease (PE+/PD+),

113 preeclampsia/no periodontal disease (PE+/PD-), no preeclampsia/periodontal disease (PE-

114 /PD+), and no preeclampsia/no periodontal disease (PE-/PE-). We hypothesize that the

115 placenta microbiome is derived, at least partially, from oral microbiome, and placenta

116 microbiome is associated with PE and elevated systemic inflammatory responses. Outcomes  
117 from this study, will help strengthen our understanding of the pathogenesis of preeclampsia and  
118 offer a novel preventive or treatment strategy for this long-standing significant hypertensive  
119 disorder.

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## 121 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### 122 **Study participants**

123 We conducted a prospective, cross sectional observational cohort study at two academic  
124 medical centers. The study was conducted at John Dempsey Hospital and Hartford Hospital  
125 from to October 2019 - December 2020. The protocol was approved by the institutional review  
126 boards at both sites. UConn Health was the IRB of record (IRB #: 19-140H-1). Pregnant women  
127 admitted in labor were approached regarding participation in the study. Women were eligible if  
128 they were age 18-50 years old, and carried a singleton gestation, and gestational age was  
129 greater than 28 weeks. Exclusion criteria were: pregestational or gestational diabetes, known or  
130 diagnosed HIV-infection in pregnancy, Hepatitis B or C positive status, inflammatory bowel  
131 disease, major fetal anomalies, renal disease, chronic antibiotic use in pregnancy, chronic  
132 steroid use ( $\geq 2$  months use), and inability to collect specimens within 72 hours after birth. Due  
133 to the possibility that labor may influence risk of infection and concern for bacterial  
134 contamination of the placenta, all cesarean deliveries for this study were confined to women  
135 who underwent elective cesarean delivery prior to undergoing spontaneous labor.

136 PE was defined as new onset hypertension: BP  $\geq 140$  mmHg systolic or  $\geq 90$  mmHg diastolic  
137 (sustained-on two occasions at least 6 hours apart) in the presence or absence of proteinuria (at  
138 least 300 mg per 24 h, a score of 0.3 on protein/creatinine ratio during the study period<sup>12</sup>.

### 139 **Sample Size**

140 This study aimed to establish whether there are microbiota differences of sufficient magnitude in  
141 patients with preeclampsia and periodontal disease. This sample size was calculated according

142 to a previous study that reported the association of microorganisms found in placental tissues  
143 obtained from women with pre-eclampsia, and normal pregnant women<sup>10</sup>. Effect size was based  
144 on detecting a difference between groups in the microbial  $\beta$ -diversity with varying prevalence  
145 and effect sizes<sup>10, 13</sup>.

146 **Serum Blood Collection:** Blood was collected on admission and prior to the beginning of labor.  
147 The samples were centrifuged and serum were stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  for cytokines analysis.

148 **Placenta Specimen Collection:** At the time of delivery, the placenta was placed in a sterile  
149 container and immediately handed off to trained study personnel who wore facial masks and  
150 used sterile gloves, scalpel and tissue forceps. Two 1-cm  $\times$  1-cm  $\times$  1-cm cuboidal sections were  
151 circumferentially excised under the surface area of the placenta from specified areas (chorionic  
152 plate to basal plate); one area located 4 cm proximal to cord insertion and one area located 4  
153 cm from the placental edge site<sup>14</sup>. The specimens were stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  for microbiome  
154 assessment.

155 **Oral Cavity Specimen Collection.** All patients were evaluated for the presence or absence of  
156 periodontal disease by a trained periodontist. The dental exam was a full mouth periodontal  
157 examination<sup>15</sup>. Measurements were taken at 6 sites around of each tooth on postpartum day  
158 one<sup>16</sup>. The following parameters were evaluated: Periodontal Probing Depth (PPD), Bleeding  
159 on Probing (Bop), Recession – measured (when present) from cement-enamel junction (CEJ) to  
160 free gingival margin, and Clinical Attachment Loss (CAL)<sup>17</sup>.

161 Periodontal disease was defined as the dental exam finding  $\geq 2$  non-adjacent interproximal sites  
162 with CAL  $\geq 3$  mm, and  $\geq 2$  non-adjacent interproximal sites with PPD  $\geq 4$  mm, or  $\geq 1$  sites with  
163 PPD  $\geq 5$  mm<sup>16</sup>. Subgingival dental plaque samples were collected by swiping the tooth surface  
164 with a dental explorer, and were placed in DNA Genotek media and stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  until  
165 sequencing.

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## 168 **DNA extraction, PCR amplification, and 16S rRNA gene sequencing**

169 To determine the microbiome profile in placenta and subgingival plaque, we performed V4  
170 regions of 16S rRNA genes sequencing<sup>19</sup>. In brief, a maximum of 0.25g placenta and 200ul  
171 subgingival samples were used for DNA extraction using Qiagen DNA mini kit for tissue and  
172 blood, according to the manufacturer's protocol<sup>18</sup>. Genomic DNAs were amplified using primers  
173 targeting V4 region of 16S rRNA gene, followed by 2x250bp pair-end sequencing using the  
174 Illumina Miseq sequencing platform. To control potential microbiome contaminations, negative  
175 controls including extraction controls and operation room controls were included for all sample  
176 extractions. The 16S rRNA gene sequences were processed with DADA2 pipeline to generate  
177 amplicon sequence variants (ASVs) that represent lowest taxonomy unit in 16S rRNA gene  
178 sequencing. Data processing included paired end reads merging, denoising, identification and  
179 removal of chimeric sequences, assign sequences to bacterial taxonomies. Sequences  
180 detected in any negative control were removed from all samples. Bacterial taxonomic  
181 identification of amplicon sequence variants (ASVs) was done using the RDP Bayesian  
182 classifier against the Silva nr\_v119 taxonomy database<sup>20-21</sup>. Sequences that were unidentified at  
183 the domain level and those identified as mitochondria were also removed. The generated ASV  
184 table, combined with the clinical metadata, were used as input for downstream analysis. We  
185 employed rigorous procedures to remove potential placenta microbiome contamination from  
186 various sources as illustrated in Figure S1.

187

## 188 **Analysis of demographic and clinical data**

189 Descriptive statistics were used for demographic and clinical information. We first summarized  
190 women by periodontal disease and preeclampsia status for continuous variables using mean  
191 and standard deviation, categorical variables were analyzed using frequencies and  
192 percentages. The differences between the groups were tested using two-sample t-tests for  
193 continuous variables after proper transformation and Fisher's exact tests for categorical

194 variables. The prevalence of periodontal disease between women with and without  
195 preeclampsia was then determined by Chi-square testing. A logistic regression model was fitted  
196 to evaluate the associations between preeclampsia and periodontal disease, adjusting for  
197 potential confounding variables.

### 198 **Statistical analysis of placenta and oral microbiome**

199 Descriptive analysis of placental microbiome includes prevalence and relative abundances of a  
200 combination of placental microbiome in each group. Data in two placenta sites was combined to  
201 represent placenta microbiome for a given patient. Kruskal–Wallis test or Fisher’s exact test  
202 and Wilcox-sum rank test were used to test prevalence and relative abundances difference  
203 across groups, respectively. Permutational multivariate analysis of variance (PERMANOVA)  
204 was performed to evaluate global microbiome difference between two groups after accounting  
205 for potential confounding variables such as age, ethnicity, smoking status, and history of  
206 preeclampsia<sup>24</sup>. Wilcox-Sum-Rank testing and DESeq2 were performed to identify differential  
207 bacteria between groups<sup>25</sup>. A logistic regression model was used to determine the risk of oral  
208 microbiome in development of PE. P values from multiple comparisons were adjusted using  
209 False Discovery Approach. Adjusted p value <0.05 was considered as statistical significance.

210

### 211 **Cytokine Analysis**

212 Cytokine serum levels were determined using commercially available kits according to the  
213 manufacturer instructions. The cytokine serum levels, expressed as medium fluorescence  
214 intensity (MFI), were log transformed and compared among the four groups (preeclampsia (PE)  
215 and periodontal disease (PD) by using Kruskal–Wallis followed by Dunn’s post-test where the p-  
216 value was adjusted for multiple testing using the Benjamini-Hochberg method.

217 All above statistical analyses of the microbiome were performed with R 3.3.2 (Vienna, Austria)  
218 software.

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## 220 RESULTS

221 A total of 126 women were screened from October 2019 to December 2020. Seventy-two  
222 patients did not meet inclusion criteria, leaving 54 women eligible for the study (Figure S2).  
223 Patient characteristics and demographics by (preeclampsia and periodontal status) are  
224 presented in Table 1. All clinical variables were comparable across four groups except that birth  
225 weight ( $p=0.001$ ) and gestational age ( $p=0.008$ ) were significantly lower in patients with PE.  
226 Interestingly, periodontal disease was confirmed in 19 (65.5%) women with preeclampsia  
227 compared to 7 (28%) women without preeclampsia ( $p=0.007$ ). Further logistic regression  
228 analysis showed periodontal disease increased the risk of preeclampsia after adjustment for  
229 age, preterm delivery and smoking status (OR=2.26, 1.14-4.48,  $p=0.024$ ).

230

231 Ninety-six out of 99 placental samples from 54 patients were successfully sequenced, resulting  
232 in 2241 ASVs. DNA extraction and procedure room control accounted for a large proportion of  
233 sequenced reads of placenta (81.7%). After contamination removals from DNA extraction  
234 controls and procedure room control, 2142 ASVs were left.

235

236 To address the potential microbial contamination during delivery, difference of placenta  
237 microbiome between cesarean and vaginal delivery were evaluated. The microbiome in  
238 placenta after removing extraction and procedure room controls was significantly different  
239 between cesarean and vaginal delivery by PERMANOVA ( $p<0.05$ ) (Figure S3) suggesting  
240 delivery mode contributes to the microbiota detected in placenta. Wilcox-Sum-Rank test showed  
241 vagina-related microbiome represented by *Lactobacillus*, *Prevotella*, *Gardnerella*, *Megasphaera*  
242 and common stool microbiota represented by *Bacteroides*, *Faecalibacterium* were significantly  
243 higher among vaginal deliveries. Skin-related bacteria *Bacilli* were significantly higher in women  
244 who had cesarean deliveries. In total, ASVs from 67 genera noted to be different between

245 delivery modes were removed from placenta microbiome, resulting in 1482 ASVs in 96 placental  
246 samples.

247

248 To further minimize potential contaminations, we filtered the placental microbiome by keeping  
249 ASVs identified in oral samples and with >1% of averaged abundance in oral samples (Figure  
250 S1). The relative abundance of 1% was considered a biologically reliable or relevant cut-off for  
251 microbiome research in low biomass samples and was used for previous placental microbiome  
252 studies<sup>22-23</sup>. This yielded a final set of 23 ASVs from 10 genera including Streptococcus,  
253 Haemophilus, Veillonella, Fusobacterium, Neisseria, Granulicatella, Gemella, Actinomyces,  
254 Campylobacter and Leptotrichia in placenta. The majority of these microbiota are well-known  
255 periodontal disease-associated bacteria. Streptococcus was the most prevalent bacteria in  
256 placenta, account for 27.7% of patients in our cohort (13/47 =27.7%), with the rest of 9 genera  
257 accounting for 2-8% of total patients (Figure 1a).

258

259 Next, we analyzed the placenta microbiome in patients with and without PE (PE+ and PE-) and  
260 four subgroups: PE+/PD+, PE+PD-, PE-/PD+ and PE-/PE-. We found 7 bacteria Veillonella,  
261 Fusobacterium, Haemophilus, Granulicatella, Streptococcus, Gemella and Neisseria that were  
262 present in higher proportion in PE+ group compared to the PE- group. However, none of the  
263 individual genus showed statistical difference in prevalence or abundance among PE+ and PE-  
264 groups or the four subgroups. This is likely due to different patients having different bacterial  
265 compositions in their placenta microbiome. However, because different bacteria may confer  
266 similar function and the identified placental microbiome were all associated with periodontal-  
267 disease, we combined the prevalence or abundance of the 7 bacteria genera and tested the  
268 differences of combined microbiome among groups. Interestingly, the prevalence of combined  
269 placental microbiota in PE+ patients (14/26=53.8%) was significantly higher than PE- patients  
270 (4/21=19.0%) ( $p=0.018$ ) (Figure 1b). The combined placental microbiota showed the highest

271 prevalence of placenta microbiome in PE+/PD+ group (10/17=58.8%), and it was significantly  
272 higher than PE-/PD- groups (3/15=20%) ( $p=0.035$ ). (Figure 1c). The abundances of combined  
273 placental microbiota showed significantly difference between two groups (PE+ vs PE) ( $p=0.021$ )  
274 and four subgroups ( $p=0.020$ ) (Figure S4). Together, we confirmed our hypothesis that some  
275 periodontal disease-related bacteria are high in prevalence and abundance in PE patients.

276  
277 Thirty-five out of 48 oral samples were successfully sequenced and included in the analysis.  
278 PERMANOVA analysis showed that the global oral microbiome profile had marginally significant  
279 difference between PE+ and PE- groups ( $p=0.09$ ) and between PE+PD+ and PE-PD- groups  
280 ( $p=0.07$ ). However, Differential taxa analysis by DESeq2 showed Haemophilus ( $p=0.15$ ),  
281 Veillonella ( $p=0.020$ ), Fusobacterium ( $p=0.046$ ) were higher in PE+ than PE- patients (Figure  
282 2a), and higher in PE+PD+ than PE-PD- patients (Figure 2b). However, the three taxa showed  
283 similar relative abundances in PE patients with and without PD, suggesting these oral bacteria  
284 may be associated with PE independent of PD. Importantly, logistic regression analysis showed  
285 Haemophilus but not Veillonella and Fusobacterium in subgingivae was associated with  
286 increased risk of PE (OR=2.11, 95% CI=1.11-4.52,  $p=0.032$ ). This raises the possibility that the  
287 oral microbiome may potentially serve as a marker for PE.

288  
289 The blood levels of CRP, LBP, TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-6 showed no statistical difference in patients with  
290 or without PE or PD (Table S1 and S2) even after stratification for term deliveries with Kruskal-  
291 Wallis. However, IL-8 levels were significantly higher in PE+/PD+ groups compared to PE+/PD-  
292 group ( $p=0.28$ , Figure 3a).

293  
294 To examine the relationship between proinflammatory cytokine and placental microbiome, we  
295 compared cytokines levels in patients who had a detected and non-detected placental  
296 microbiome. Interestingly, we found there were elevated levels of blood IL-6 in placentas with

297 detected microbiome than placentas without detected microbiome ( $p= 0.028$ ,Figure 3b),  
298 indicating the presence of placental microbiome is associated with elevated systemic  
299 inflammation.

## 300 **Discussion**

### 301 **Main findings**

302 By simultaneously profiling the oral and placental microbiome in the same pregnant women, we  
303 identified oral-like bacteria in placenta from more than half of the patients with PE, compared to  
304 less than 20% in patients without PE. The presence of placental microbiome was associated  
305 with increased systemic inflammation in PE. High abundances of Haemophilus in oral cavity is  
306 associated with increased risk of PE.

307

### 308 **Interpretation**

309 PE has long been considered as a placental disorder. Despite the lack of cohesive evidence of  
310 healthy placenta microbiome<sup>26,27</sup>, there is a consensus that the microbiome may be present in  
311 placenta and contributes to pathogenesis in maternal or fetal diseases. After rigorous potential  
312 contamination removal, we found seven bacterial taxa from more than half of the patients with  
313 PE, compared to 20% in patients without PE. Sequencing the oral and placenta microbiome in  
314 parallel in our study is advantageous than any previous studies that were only focused on either  
315 placenta or oral microbiome. In addition, among the 7 placenta-associated microbiota, the  
316 relative abundances of Haemophilus, Veillonella and Fusobacterium were significantly higher in  
317 the oral samples of PE+ patients than PE- patients, further supporting an oral origin of these  
318 placenta-associated bacteria. However, whole genome shotgun sequencing or other higher  
319 taxonomic classification approaches as well as addition of vaginal and gut sampling sites are  
320 needed to confirm exact origin of the bacteria.

321

322 Fusobacterium was previously found to be prevalent in placenta of PE patients by targeted PCR  
323 amplification<sup>10,28</sup>. Our results confirmed this finding and additionally revealed other PE-  
324 associated placenta microbiota through 16S sequencing. The underlying reasons why these  
325 specific taxa can disseminate to placenta merit future investigation. It is possible that both host  
326 factors and microbiota can contribute to microbiome seeding in placenta since hormonal  
327 changes during pregnancy in women and invading capacity of FadA adhesin from *F.*  
328 *nucleatum*<sup>29</sup> can increasing endothelial permeability.

329

330 Although the relative abundances of *Haemophilus*, *Veillonella* and *Fusobacterium* in the oral  
331 samples were significantly higher in PE+ patients than PE- patients, they were similar between  
332 PD+ and PD- patients. This suggests that these oral bacteria are potential markers for PE  
333 independent of PD status. Interestingly, when analyzing the oral microbiome, we found  
334 *Haemophilus*, but not *Veillonella* and *Fusobacterium* in subgingivae was a risk factor for PE. A  
335 prior study showed that *Haemophilus* was considered important in early biofilm formation, but  
336 not necessarily more prominent in caries<sup>30</sup>. This suggests in addition to bacteria associated with  
337 caries, non-carries associated microbiome may also be important for PE. Because we collected  
338 oral samples when PE was diagnosed, we could not conclude whether increased abundances  
339 of these oral bacteria are consequence or drivers of PE.

340

341 Previous studies have shown that proinflammatory cytokine mediators produced in pregnancy  
342 may be responsible for the exacerbated endothelial damage seen in women who develop  
343 preeclampsia in pregnancy<sup>31-32</sup>. However, our study did not observe any statistical difference in  
344 plasma levels of the cytokine mediators in either of the two groups (PE and PD) even after  
345 removing the potential confounder, preterm delivery, and evaluating only the term deliveries.  
346 However, subgroup analysis found that within PE+ patients, PE+/PD+ patients had higher IL-8  
347 level in blood than PE+/PD- patients. This may have been a result of being underpowered for

348 the analysis of plasma levels among the designated inflammatory, as our study was only  
349 powered to evaluate the microbiome. We showed that detectable microbiota in placenta was  
350 associated with increased plasma levels of IL-6, suggesting presence of placenta microbiome  
351 may increase proinflammatory response or vice versa.

352

### 353 **STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS**

354 This study had several strengths. Special attention was given to the protocol development for  
355 collection of placenta specimens, and rigorous bioinformatic pipeline was employed to decrease  
356 the risk of contamination. This study is also one of the first studies to investigate the origins of  
357 the placental microbiome in women with preeclampsia and periodontal disease by comparing  
358 the bacterial taxonomic levels for multiple body sites. Prior to our study, this had not been  
359 investigated in detail.

360 One limitation of this study was the absence of collecting vagina and stool sampling for all  
361 women which restricts the analysis of the placental microbial colonization pattern to only oral  
362 microbiota. Lastly, our study was mainly an association study, and we were not able to show a  
363 causative link between the microbiome in women with periodontal disease and preeclampsia.

364 Future studies should include early and multiple time points sampling during the whole  
365 pregnancy will allow us to determine whether there is a causal role of these oral bacteria in PE  
366 in human. If this is confirmed, oral microbiome, with easy sampling in clinic, may be used as an  
367 alternative strategy to predict or prevent PE. Future longitudinal studies should shed light on  
368 causative factors between the placental microbiome and preeclampsia.

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**373 CONCLUSION**

374 Our findings suggest that oral-associated placenta microbiome is prevalent in PE, and is  
375 associated with higher systemic inflammation. High abundances of Haemophilus in oral cavity is  
376 associated with increased risk of PE.

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402 **Disclosure of interest**

403 There are no conflicts of interest associated with this article.

404 **Financial Disclosure:** The authors did not have any financial support for this research nor are  
405 there any conflicts of interest to report.

406

407 **Contribution to Authorship**

408 **SMC:** Work conception, study design, sample collection and writing. **AB:** Sample collection and

409 guidance. **HY:** Microbiome data analysis. **HP:** Sample preparation. **JR:** Microbiome data

410 processing. **ST:** Dental exam. **EH:** Sample collection. **AH:** Dental exam. **CK:** Statistical analysis.

411 **NB:** Dental exam. **KM:** microbiome sequencing. **WC:** Work conception and study design. **YZ:**

412 Work conception, study design, microbiome data analysis and writing.

413

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544 **Table/Figure Caption List**

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546 **Figure 1. Placental microbiome in different groups.** Ten bacterial genera identified in  
547 placenta after rigorous bioinformatic processing. Proportions of women who have a given  
548 detectable placental microbiota are illustrated by barplots (1a). Prevalence of placental  
549 microbiota among PE+ vs PE- women ( $p=0.018$ , Fisher exact test) (1b). Prevalence of placental  
550 microbiota among four subgroups ( $p=0.035$ , Fisher exact test) (1c).

551

552 **Figure 2: Relative abundance of three microbiota in subgingival samples that are**  
553 **significantly different between PE+ and PE- patients (2a), and among four subgroups**  
554 **(2b).**

555

556 **Figure 3: Comparison of inflammatory cytokines in four subgroups and in patients with**  
557 **and without detectable placental microbiota.** Il-8 levels in blood are significantly higher in  
558 PE+/PD+ patients than PE+/PD- patients ( $p=0.028$ , Wilcox sum rank) (3a). Il-6 levels in blood  
559 are significantly higher in patients with detectable placental microbiota than those without  
560 ( $p=0.028$ , Wilcox sum rank test) (3b).

561

562 **Fig S1: Bioinformatic workflow for placental microbiome identification.** The protocol  
563 covers each data processing steps to remove potential microbial contamination from extraction  
564 controls, operation room control, delivery mode, as well as additional filtering step to remove  
565 relatively low abundant taxa.

566

567 **Figure S2. Flow Diagram of participants and samples.**

568

569 **Figure S3. Principal component analysis (PCA) of placental microbiome by mode of**  
570 **delivery.** The placental microbiome obtained from C-section (red) and vaginal delivery (blue) is  
571 separated clearly in the first and second component of PCA analysis.

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573 **Figure S4. Relative abundances of seven placental microbiome across four groups.**

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593 **Table 1: Clinical characteristics of the 54 participants by subgroups (PE+/PD+, PE+/PD-,**  
 594 **PE-/PD+, PE-/PD-)**

Variable	PE+/PD+ (n=19)	PE+/PD- (n=10)	PE-/PD+ (n=7)	PE-/PE- (n=18)	P-Value
<b>Age</b>	29.32 ± 5.39	29.2 ± 5.71	31.57 ± 7.79	27.67 ± 5.77	0.517
<b>Birth Weight (grams)</b>	2587.53 ± 764.4	2333 ± 836.24	3206.29 ± 442.91	3376.28 ± 563.29	<b>0.001</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>					0.712
Hispanic	7 (36.8%)	2 (20%)	3 (42.9%)	8 (44.4%)	
Non-Hispanic	12 (63.1%)	8 (80%)	4 (57.1%)	10 (55.6%)	
<b>Gestational Age (weeks)</b>	35.84 ± 2.71	35.5 ± 3.5	38.14 ± 1.68	38.11 ± 1.37	<b>0.008</b>
<b>Mode of Delivery</b>					0.247
C-Section	10 (52.6%)	5 (50%)	3 (42.9%)	4 (22.2%)	
Vaginal	9 (47.4%)	5 (50%)	4 (57.1%)	14 (77.8%)	
<b>NICU Admission</b>					0.151
No	12 (63.2%)	8 (80%)	7 (100%)	16 (88.9%)	
Yes	7 (36.8%)	2 (20%)	0 (0%)	2 (11.1%)	
<b>PrePregnancy BMI</b>	31.53 ± 4.4	30.4 ± 7.71	32.43 ± 7.79	32.28 ± 7.09	0.885
<b>Preterm</b>					0.073
No	10 (52.6%)	8 (80%)	6 (85.7%)	16 (88.9%)	
Yes	9 (47.4%)	2 (20%)	1 (14.3%)	2 (11.1%)	
<b>Race</b>					0.650
Asian	0 (0%)	2 (20%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	
Black	7 (36.8%)	4 (40%)	2 (28.6%)	5 (27.8%)	
Caucasian	5 (26.3%)	2 (20%)	2 (28.6%)	5 (27.8%)	
Hispanic	7 (36.8%)	2 (20%)	3 (42.9%)	8 (44.4%)	
<b>Smoking</b>					0.291
Former	5 (26.3%)	1 (10%)	2 (28.6%)	1 (5.6%)	
No	13 (68.4%)	9 (90%)	5 (71.4%)	17 (94.4%)	
Yes	1 (5.3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	

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