

Providence midwife hopes to educate pregant women about preeclampsia

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Sonya Stone didn't know she was experiencing preeclampsia until she visited with a Providence doctor.

PROVIDENCE WOMEN'S HEALTH – About 5 to 8% of pregnant women in the U.S. suffer from preeclampsia – a life threatening condition that can lead to stroke or death of the mother and/or child during pregnancy, labor and delivery.

African-American women are three times more likely to die from preeclampsia than white women in the U.S. In order to diagnose this condition, it is crucial to recognize the symptoms early on.

"Many women experience some symptoms such as a headache or vision changes or abdominal pain," says Joanna Sullivan, certified nurse-midwife at Providence Women's Clinic – East.

New mother Sonya Stone however, did not experience any of the common symptoms. If it hadn't been for a routine check-up at Providence Women's Clinic, Sonya could have lost her life.

"It turned out that my blood pressure was extremely high even though I felt totally fine," Sonya says.

Joanna emphasized that the only known treatment for women who are far along in their pregnancies with preeclampsia is to give birth.

Watch the full story with [KPTV](#).

