Peripheral blood flow in maternal kidneys in the third trimester of pregnancy

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**Background:**
Compression of the left renal vein may be associated with preeclampsia. We aimed to investigate peripheral blood flow in the kidneys in the third trimester in uncomplicated pregnancies.

**Methods:**
The peripheral blood flow in the maternal kidneys was examined with the PixelFlux-method in videoclips of three seconds duration. PixelFlux is a method based on pixelwise calculation. Velocity is coded by colour and by comparing each pixel with colour, it is possible to estimate the peripheral blood flow using a computer software program.

**Results:**
The study population comprised 34 women. The peripheral blood flow in the left kidney was lower than in the right kidney and associated with blood pressure.

**Conclusion:**
The left renal vein may be compressed by the uterus.