

for women.



## What are the symptoms of PPCM?

Symptoms are often similar to those of third-trimester pregnancy, such as fatigue, shortness of breath and swollen ankles. But with PPCM, symptoms are magnif ed. If there's doubt, a thorough workup is needed.

Other signs include:

- · Shortness of breath during activity
- Trouble breathing while lying down
- Extreme fatigue
- Fluid buildup in the ankles and legs
- Racing heart or palpitations
- Low blood pressure

## What's happening to the heart when PPCM occurs?

PPCM is a dilated form of cardiomyopathy when the heart chambers enlarge and the muscle weakens. This causes a decrease in the percentage of blood ejected, also known as the ejection fraction (EF),

the condition every year. But some reports predict

