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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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How is antipsychotic treatment during pregnancy and breastfeeding important?

Antipsychotic use during pregnancy requires careful consideration of the mother's risk of illness relapse, against potential risk of harm or complications for the mother and developing infant if medication is to be continued.

What is the evidence for antipsychotic use during pregnancy and breastfeeding?

High quality evidence finds a small, increased risk of gestational diabetes mellitus with antipsychotic use (first or second generation).

Moderate quality evidence suggests a small increased risk of heart defect or lower birth weight in infants, and a small increased risk of preterm delivery, but not stillbirth, with exposure to antipsychotics. Lower quality evidence is unsure about the risk of termination or spontaneous abortion, and the size and malformation in infants.

Review authors report that the studies did not routinely adjust for potential confounding factors, such as other medication use.

For more information see the technical table



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NeuRA (Neuroscience Research Australia) is one of the largest independent medical and clinical research institutes in Australia and an international leader in neurological research.

Diseases of the brain and nervous system pose the greatest health, economic and social burden of any disease group because they are chronic, debilitating and have no known cures.

Medical research is the cornerstone of efforts to advance the health and wellbeing of families and the community. Our dedicated scientists are focussed on transforming their research into significant and practical benefits for all patients.

While we hope you find this information useful, it is always important to discuss any questions about schizophrenia or its treatment with your doctor or other health care provider.

HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

We are able to make significant advances due to the generosity of countless people. Your donation allows us to continue to work towards transforming lives. For information on how you can support our research, phone **1300 888 019** or make a secure donation at neura.edu.au/donate/schizophrenia.