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ACETAMINOPHEN (TYLENOL®) USE IN PREGNANCY AND NEURODEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN

What is Acetaminophen?

- Acetaminophen (paracetamol in some countries) is the active ingredient in Tylenol®
- It is used to treat fever and pain
- It is a well-studied medication commonly used in pregnancy

What are Autism and ADHD?

- Autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) are neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs)
- A combination of factors plays a role in their development
- Genetics plays the largest part, with over 800 genes potentially involved
- A full understanding of autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders is an area of ongoing research

Does Acetaminophen in Pregnancy Cause Autism or ADHD?

- The best designed studies show no link between acetaminophen and NDDs
- Some of the studies that showed a link did not address risk factors like genetics and maternal health conditions. Once these factors were addressed properly, risks were reduced or disappeared

There is no increased risk of autism or ADHD with the use of acetaminophen during pregnancy.



Can I Take Acetaminophen if I Have Pain or Fever in Pregnancy?

- Yes, acetaminophen can be used short-term in pregnancy, when taken as directed
- Fever can be harmful in pregnancy, so treating it is important
- The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) recommends acetaminophen as the treatment of choice for pain and fever in pregnancy
- Use the lowest effective dose for the shortest time needed
- More research is needed to understand the safety of using acetaminophen over long periods of time in pregnancy
- Talk to your healthcare provider for ongoing pain management

For more information visit: https://firstexposure.ca/acetaminophen_and_neurodevelopment/

This information does not replace medical care and advice from your healthcare provider. For more information, please contact your healthcare provider.



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