



Can Acetaminophen (Tylenol®) During Pregnancy Affect Baby's Brain Development?

What Are Brain Development Disorders?

It includes conditions that affect **how the brain grows and works**, making it harder for a person to:



- learn
- move
- communicate
- handle emotions

What Did We Do?

Our team looked at **ALL** the **research** on the effect of



acetaminophen during pregnancy on baby's brain development.



What Did We Find?

Right now, studies show **no** clear **link between acetaminophen** use in pregnancy **and** problems with **baby's brain development**.

More research in the future can help to confirm this.

Research Is Great, But It's Not Perfect

Limits of research can make it difficult to be sure about the effects because:



Difficult to know the **exact amount of acetaminophen taken** during pregnancy, so the effect of dose is unclear.

Different tools are used to **evaluate** a child's brain development, making study results difficult to compare.




People **take acetaminophen for many reasons**, making it difficult to tell if effects are from the medication, the illness, or other factors.

What Does Science Say?

No increased risk of **Language Delay**




Trouble with learning to talk and understand words on time.

 35,000 pregnancies from 5 studies.

No increased risk of **Cognitive Development**



Problems with thinking, remembering, and learning.


 7,500 pregnancies from 2 studies.



No increased risk of **ADHD**

Condition that makes it hard to focus, sit still, and control actions.




 2,5 millions pregnancies from 4 studies.

No increased risk of **Autism Spectrum Disorder**




Condition affecting how someone interacts, communicates, and behaves.

 2,5 millions pregnancies from 2 studies.

No increased risk of **Psychomotor Development**



Slower development of movement and coordination skills.

 35,000 pregnancies from 3 studies.

Always consult a healthcare professional before making changes to your medication.



Reference:

Bérard, Anick, et al. « Acetaminophen use during pregnancy and the risk of neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) in childhood: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis ». Center for Truth in Science, November 2024.