

Acetaminophen Use During Pregnancy

Pregnancy is a time filled with many questions and important decisions. A common question is whether it is safe to use acetaminophen, also commonly known as Tylenol.

Acetaminophen is considered a safe and trusted option for treating pain or fever during pregnancy.

Fevers increase the risk of concerns during pregnancy.

- The most concerning time for a fever is just before and during the first trimester when there is an increased risk for some health conditions (cleft lip/palate, congenital heart defects, and autism for the developing fetus) and miscarriage.
- Later in pregnancy, a fever increases the risk of preterm labor and birth.

Autism and acetaminophen use during pregnancy

There is no single cause of autism. Research suggests that a combination of genetic, biological, and environmental factors could influence whether a child develops autism.

Findings from a 2024 study that included over 2.4 million children showed that acetaminophen use during pregnancy was **not associated** with children's risk of autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or intellectual disability.

Learn more about [Autism Spectrum Disorder](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/autism/index.html) (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/autism/index.html).

Other treatment options

It is important to note that other pain treatment options, such as Ibuprofen, do pose risk during pregnancy, including:

- Fetal heart problems
- Low amniotic fluid levels
- Increased risk of miscarriage

Patients should always discuss prescription and over-the-counter medications during pregnancy, including acetaminophen, with their medical provider.

Additional resources

- **American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists:** [ACOG Affirms Safety and Benefits of Acetaminophen during Pregnancy](https://www.acog.org/news/news-releases/2025/09/acog-affirms-safety-benefits-acetaminophen-pregnancy) (<https://www.acog.org/news/news-releases/2025/09/acog-affirms-safety-benefits-acetaminophen-pregnancy>)
- **Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine:** [SMFM Statement on Acetaminophen Use During Pregnancy and Autism](https://www.smfm.org/news/smfm-statement-on-acetaminophen-use-during-pregnancy-and-autism) (<https://www.smfm.org/news/smfm-statement-on-acetaminophen-use-during-pregnancy-and-autism>)
- **American Academy of Pediatrics:** [Acetaminophen is Safe for Children When Taken as Directed, No Link to Autism](https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/fact-checked/acetaminophen-is-safe-for-children-when-taken-as-directed-no-link-to-autism/) (<https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/fact-checked/acetaminophen-is-safe-for-children-when-taken-as-directed-no-link-to-autism/>)

Minnesota Department of Health
Child and Family Health Division
Maternal and Child Health Section
health.mch@state.mn.us,
www.health.state.mn.us

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