Acetaminophen Use in Pregnancy

Claims that acetaminophen (brand name Tylenol) use in pregnancy causes autism are not supported by scientific evidence. 1,2,3,4,5,6





Why do pregnant people take acetaminophen, such as Tylenol?

Acetaminophen is widely recognized as the safest treatment for **fever** and **pain** during pregnancy. 1,2

What happens if fever or pain are not treated during pregnancy?



Fever during pregnancy **can pose risks** for both mother and baby. Untreated fever can increase the risk of birth defects, preterm birth, and other problems for the baby. ^{1,3,4,5}

Acetaminophen is one of the **safest options** to **reduce fever** and **ease pain** during pregnancy, helping to protect the health of both parent and baby when it's needed.^{1,3,4,5}

Is acetaminophen safe for the baby?



Yes! Research shows that acetaminophen is **safe to use** in pregnancy and can play an important role in keeping both mom and baby healthy. ^{6,7,8,9,10,11}

REMEMBER

- Tylenol is usually safe in pregnancy. Use only when needed and as prescribed by your doctor.
- Like anything else in pregnancy, you should always talk to your healthcare provider when starting or stopping medication.



"I believe the key initiative for youth and families is to not take news outlet statements at face value. Dig deeper to find credible scientific research. If you are concerned, talk to your primary care provider." KS, Network

Youth Council Member, Knowledge Mobilization Committee Member, CHILD-BRIGHT Network



"As a parent partner with CHILD-BRIGHT, I believe in the science, and I need you to hear this: acetaminophen does not cause autism. If you used Tylenol during pregnancy, you did the right thing. Period. The evidence backs

you up." CP, Parent partner in Neurodevelopmental Research, CHILD-BRIGHT Network KM Program co-lead

Check these other statements about this topic:



Obstetrics Gynecology Association

American Association of Pediatrics

REFERENCES:

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- 4. Research doesn't show using Tylenol during pregnancy causes autism. Here are 5 things to know. PBS Organization. September 17, 2025.
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- 7. Prada A, et al. Environmental Health. 2025. Prenatal acetaminophen exposure and neurodevelopmental disorders: a Navigation Guide systematic review.
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- 9. Cendejas-Hernandez J et al. Paracetamol (acetaminophen) use in infants and children was never shown to be safe for neurodevelopment: a systematic review with citation tracking. Eur J Pediatr. 2022 May;181(5):1835-1857.
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