



Commonwealth Department of
Health and
Aged Care

Prescribing medicines in pregnancy

4th edition

**An Australian
categorisation of
risk of drug use in
pregnancy**

TGA **THERAPEUTIC
GOODS
ADMINISTRATION**

Australian Drug Evaluation Committee

The Australian categorisation consists of the following categories:

Category A

Drugs which have been taken by a large number of pregnant women and women of childbearing age without any proven increase in the frequency of malformations or other direct or indirect harmful effects on the fetus having been observed.

Category C

Drugs which, owing to their pharmacological effects, have caused or may be suspected of causing, harmful effects on the human fetus or neonate without causing malformations. These effects may be reversible. Accompanying texts should be consulted for further details.

Category B1

Drugs which have been taken by only a limited number of pregnant women and women of childbearing age, without an increase in the frequency of malformation or other direct or indirect harmful effects on the human fetus having been observed.

Studies in animals have not shown evidence of an increased occurrence of fetal damage.

Category B2

Drugs which have been taken by only a limited number of pregnant women and women of childbearing age, without an increase in the frequency of malformation or other direct or indirect harmful effects on the human fetus having been observed.

Studies in animals are inadequate or may be lacking, but available data show no evidence of an increased occurrence of fetal damage.

Category B3

Drugs which have been taken by only a limited number of pregnant women and women of childbearing age, without an increase in the frequency of malformation or other direct or indirect harmful effects on the human fetus having been observed.

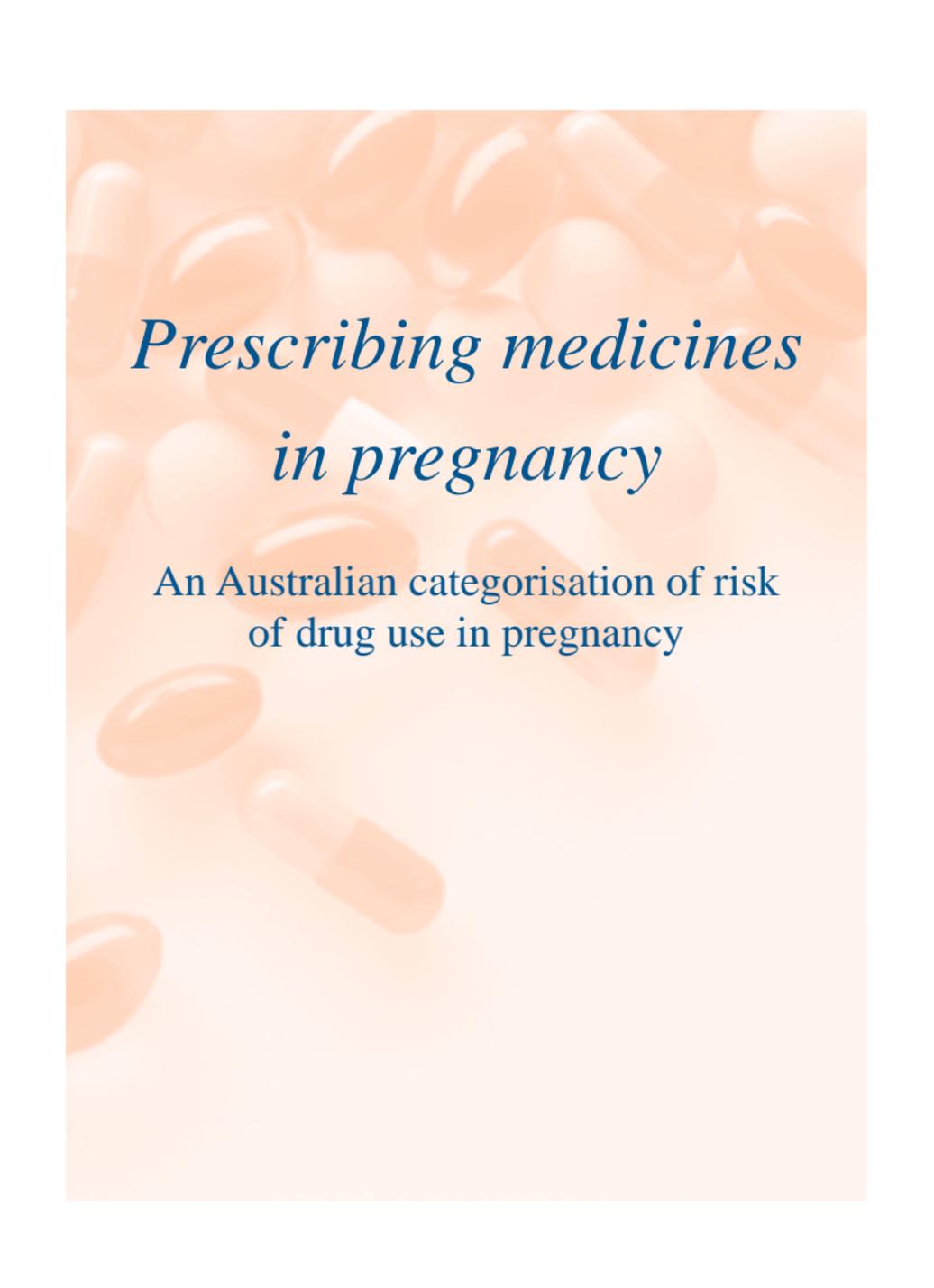
Studies in animals have shown evidence of an increased occurrence of fetal damage, the significance of which is considered uncertain in humans.

Category D

Drugs which have caused, are suspected to have caused or may be expected to cause, an increased incidence of human fetal malformations or irreversible damage. These drugs may also have adverse pharmacological effects. Accompanying texts should be consulted for further details.

Category X

Drugs which have such a high risk of causing permanent damage to the fetus that they should not be used in pregnancy or when there is a possibility of pregnancy.



*Prescribing medicines
in pregnancy*

An Australian categorisation of risk
of drug use in pregnancy

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From the Chairman

It is now ten years and four editions since *Medicines in Pregnancy* was first produced by the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee to assist health professionals in the appropriate prescription of drugs in pregnancy. Over one hundred new medicines have been evaluated and approved for registration in Australia since the publication of the last edition in 1996 and have been added to the current booklet. In addition, the introduction of colour printing has allowed a revision of the layout of the text to improve the clarity of information provided.

This edition has been retitled *Prescribing Medicines in Pregnancy*, to emphasise the purpose of the booklet — guiding the prescriber in the correct choice of medication when drug therapy is required in pregnancy. This booklet is not intended for use in the more complex situation of inadvertent drug exposure in early pregnancy, and for this circumstance, the reader is referred to the Obstetric Drug Information Services listed in Appendix B.

The Australian Drug Evaluation Committee is keen to ensure that appropriate therapeutic options are available to all women needing medical treatment or preventative therapy during pregnancy, with minimisation of any associated risk to the fetus. An essential prerequisite, and the aim of this booklet, is the provision of accurate, concise information as a basis for informed consent and rational decision making. As always, the Committee welcomes feedback and is most grateful to those who have offered constructive suggestions about past editions.

Dr Rosemary Ayton
Chairman
Medicines in Pregnancy Working Party

INTRODUCTION	x
AUSTRALIAN CATEGORISATION OF DRUGS	
ALIMENTARY SYSTEM	
Hyperacidity, reflux, ulcers	2
Antispasmodics	2
Laxatives	2
Antidiarrhoeals	2
Cholelitholytics	3
CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM	
Antihypertensives	4
Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors	4
Angiotensin II receptor antagonists (ARAs)	5
Calcium channel blockers	5
Beta-adrenergic blocking agents	6
Diuretics	6
Antiarrhythmics	7
Antiangina agents	7
Hypolipidaemic agents	8
Cardiac inotropic agents	8
Adrenergic stimulants	8
Vasodilators	9
Antimigraine preparations	9
Anticoagulants and thrombolytic agents	9
Haemostatic agents	10
Fibrinolytic agents	10
Other cardiovascular agents	11

CONTENTS

BLOOD AND HAEMOPOIETIC TISSUES

Iron and haemopoietic agents	12
------------------------------	----

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

Analgesics, antipyretics	13
Opioid analgesics	13
Hypnotics and sedatives	13
Other hypnotics and sedatives	14
Antianxiety agents	14
Benzodiazepines	14
Antipsychotic agents	14
Other antipsychotic drugs	15
Antidepressants	16
Other antidepressants	16
CNS stimulants	16
Antiparkinson agents	17
Anticonvulsants / Antiepileptics	17
Other anticonvulsants / antiepileptics	19
Antiemetics, antinauseants	20
Others	20
Other agents acting on the CNS	20

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)	21
Antirheumatoid agents	21
Muscle relaxants	21
Agents used in gout and hyperuricaemia	22

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM

Oestrogens	23
Progestogens	23
Antiandrogens	23

Androgens and anabolic steroids	23
Corticosteroids	24
Pituitary hormones	24
Antidiuretics	24
Hypoglycaemic agents (oral)	25
Thyroid hormones	25
Antithyroid agents	25
Agents affecting calcium and bone metabolism	25
Other hormonal agents	25
Pituitary inhibitors	26
Ovulation inducers	26
GENITOURINARY SYSTEM	
Urinary antiseptics	27
Bladder function disorders	27
Agents acting on the uterus	27
Topical vaginal medication	28
ANTIMICROBIALS	
Cephalosporins	29
Penicillins	29
Tetracyclines	29
Aminoglycosides	29
Antifungal agents	30
Quinolones	30
Macrolide antibiotics	30
Miscellaneous antibiotics	30
Sulfonamides	31
Antituberculotics and antileprotics	31
Antimalarials	32
Antiviral agents	33
Anthelmintics	34

CONTENTS

ANTINEOPLASTIC AGENTS

Alkylating agents	35
Antimetabolites	35
Vinca alkaloids	35
Antibiotic cytotoxic agents	35
Hormonal antineoplastic agents	35
Other Antineoplastic agents	36
Non-cytotoxic supportive therapy	36

METABOLISM

Anorectic and weight reducing agents	37
Other drugs used for the treatment of metabolic disorders	37

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

Antitussives	38
Expectorants and mucolytics	38
Decongestants	38
Bronchospasm relaxants	38
Preventive aerosols and inhalations	38
Other respiratory agents	38
Propellant agents	39

ALLERGY AND IMMUNE SYSTEM

Antihistamines	40
Vaccines	40
Killed vaccines	41
Immunomodifiers	41

MOUTH PREPARATIONS	43
--------------------	----

OPHTHALMIC DRUGS	44
------------------	----

DRUGS USED IN DERMATOLOGY

Systemic	45
Topical	45
Topical antifungals, antiseptics	46
Topical antiparasitics	46
Topical antiviral	47

DRUGS USED IN ANAESTHESIA

General anaesthetics	48
Local anaesthetics	48
Neuromuscular blocking agents	48

CONTRACEPTIVE AGENTS

Oral contraceptives	49
Vaginal spermicides	49

DIAGNOSTIC AGENTS

Radiographic Agents	50
Pituitary-adrenal response test	50

MISCELLANEOUS

Detoxifying agents, antidotes	51
Cholinergic and anticholinergic agents	51
Drugs used in myasthenia gravis	51
Agents used in dependency states	51
Vitamins	52

INDEX	53
-------	----

APPENDIXES

A: Therapeutic goods exempted from pregnancy classification	71
B: Obstetric Drug Information Services	73

One in twenty five (1:25) babies born in this country has a birth defect. A small proportion of these birth defects are caused by medications taken by the mother during pregnancy.

This categorisation is intended to provide information which can be used by health professionals as the basis for rational decision making when **planning** the medical management of pregnant patients or those intending to become pregnant. **Therefore, in many cases, this categorisation will not be appropriate as the sole basis of decision making after inadvertent or accidental drug exposure has occurred during pregnancy.** In this context, there can be no substitute for expert information based on a rigorous appraisal of all the specific circumstances in each case. Appendix B should be used to ensure that appropriate advice is obtained in such situations. **This categorisation applies only to recommended therapeutic doses in women in the reproductive age group. In situations such as overdose, occupational exposure and others when the recommended therapeutic dose is exceeded, it cannot be assumed that the classifications assigned to individual medicines are valid.**

Most medicines cross the placenta. This categorisation has taken into account the known harmful effects of medicines on the developing baby, including the potential to cause birth defects, the potential to cause unwanted pharmacological effects around the time of birth (effects which may or may not be reversible), and the potential to cause problems such as cancer in later life. However, it does not take into account the rare circumstance of an idiosyncratic reaction in the neonate to a medicine which crosses the placenta.

All gestational ages referred to in this booklet are based on the time of conception. A medicine may have more than one harmful effect on the

developing baby depending on the timing of exposure. During the first two weeks of development, from conception to the first missed period, the embryo is thought to be resistant to any teratogenic effects of medicines. The critical period of embryonic development, when the organ systems develop, starts at about 17 days post-conception and is complete by 60-70 days. Exposure to certain medicines during this period (17-70 days) can cause major birth defects. In general, exposure to medicines beyond 70 days post-conception is not associated with the induction of major birth defects.

However, some medicines can interfere with functional development of organ systems in the second and third trimesters and produce serious consequences. An important example is renal dysfunction in the fetus caused by ACE inhibitors taken during the second and third trimesters.

Also, the developing central nervous system, because of its prolonged period of histogenesis and functional maturation, can be damaged by exposure to certain medicines in the second and third trimesters, resulting in problems such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy or deafness.

In addition to gestational timing, the actual dose being given, compared to a known harmful dose, needs to be considered in assessing whether there are likely to be any adverse effects.

The list of categorised medicines includes most of those used commonly in Australia. The categorisation is based on currently available evidence and changes may be necessary from year to year as new evidence is presented and analysed. The class statements in italicised blue font should be considered integral information about all of the drugs covered in that class.

For pharmaceutical products containing two or more active medicines, the categorisation of the combination is based on the component for which the categorisation is most restrictive. When a medicine is only to be used in men, it will not be found in the booklet although it will have a pregnancy category in the Product Information.

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Category C

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Drugs which have been taken by only a limited number of pregnant women and women of childbearing age, without an increase in the frequency of malformation or other direct or indirect harmful effects on the human fetus having been observed.

Studies in animals have not shown evidence of an increased occurrence of fetal damage.

Category B2

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Category D

Drugs which have caused, are suspected to have caused or may be expected to cause, an increased incidence of human fetal malformations or irreversible damage. These drugs may also have adverse pharmacological effects. Accompanying texts should be consulted for further details.

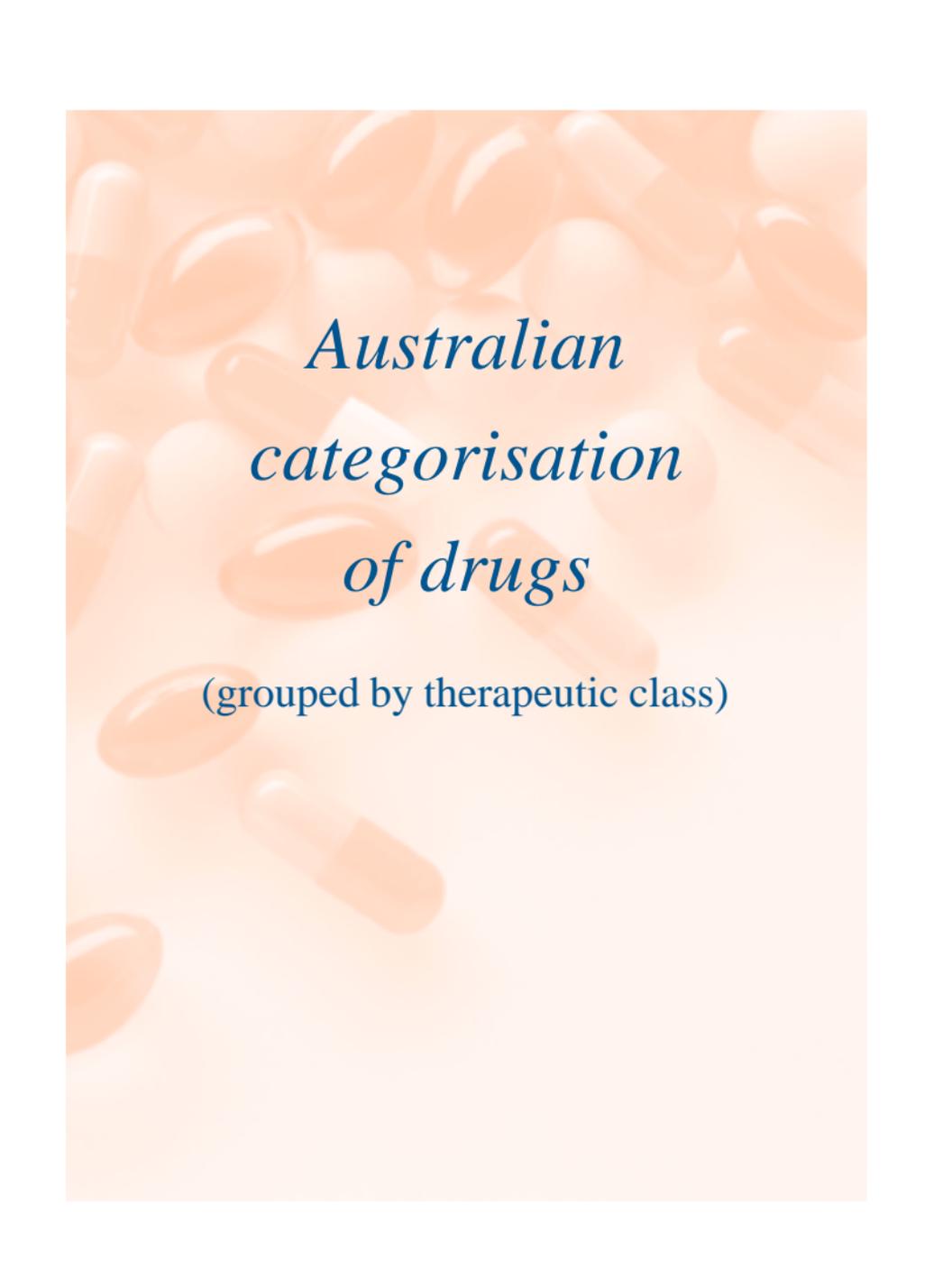
Category X

Drugs which have such a high risk of causing permanent damage to the fetus that they should not be used in pregnancy or when there is a possibility of pregnancy.

Note: For drugs in the B1, B2 and B3 categories, human data are lacking or inadequate and subcategorisation is therefore based on available animal data. **The allocation of a B category does NOT imply greater safety than the C category.** Drugs in category D are not absolutely contraindicated in pregnancy (e.g. anticonvulsants). Moreover, in some cases the 'D' category has been assigned on the basis of 'suspicion'.

Due to legal considerations in this country, sponsor companies have, in some cases, applied a more restrictive category than can be justified on the basis of the available data.

In some cases there may be discrepancies between the published Product Information and the information in this booklet due to the process of ongoing document revision.



*Australian
categorisation
of drugs*

(grouped by therapeutic class)

ALIMENTARY SYSTEM

HYPERACIDITY, REFLUX, ULCERS

Alginates/antacids	A
Bismuth subcitrate	B2
Cimetidine, cisapride, famotidine, ranitidine, sucralfate	B1
Lansoprazole, nizatidine, omeprazole, pantoprazole	B3
Misoprostol	X
This drug can produce serious birth defects. It also can cause miscarriage that could lead to potentially dangerous bleeding.	

ANTISPASMODICS

Atropine	A
Glycopyrrolate, hyoscine-N-butylbromide, mebeverine, propantheline	B2

LAXATIVES

Bisacodyl, cascara, docusate sodium, senna	A
Dicyclomine hydrochloride	B1
Phenolphthalein	B2

ANTIDIARRHOEALS

Diphenoxylate	C
This drug is chemically related to the narcotic analgesic pethidine. Narcotic analgesics may cause respiratory depression in the newborn infant. This drug should not be given at or near term.	
Hyoscyamine	B2
Loperamide	B3

Mesalazine, olsalazine

C

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs inhibit prostaglandin synthesis and, when given during the latter part of pregnancy, may cause closure of the fetal ductus arteriosus, fetal renal impairment, inhibition of platelet aggregation, and delay labour and birth. Continuous treatment with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs during the last trimester of pregnancy should only be given on sound indications. During the last few days before expected birth, agents with an inhibitory effect on prostaglandin synthesis should be avoided.

Sulfasalazine

A

Systemic budesonide

B3

CHOLELITHOLYTICS**Chenodeoxycholic acid**

B3

ANTIHYPERTENSIVES

Clonidine, doxazosin

B3

Diazoxide

C

This drug may cause fetal bradycardia. Hyperglycaemia has been observed in the newborn. Diazoxide is a potent relaxant of uterine smooth muscle and may inhibit uterine contraction if given during labour. Diazoxide should be used with extreme caution during pregnancy.

Guanethidine, methyldopa

A

Hydralazine

C

Following intravenous administration, hydralazine has been associated with fetal distress and fetal arrhythmia in the last trimester of pregnancy.

Minoxidil

C

This drug has been associated with hypertrichosis in the newborn infant following exposure in utero.

Prazosin, terazosin

B2

Sodium nitroprusside

C

Short term use for the control of hypertensive crises may be safe provided that the pH and cyanide concentrations in maternal blood are monitored.

ANGIOTENSIN CONVERTING ENZYME (ACE) INHIBITORS

When taken during the second and third trimesters, ACE inhibitors cause a range of abnormalities including renal dysfunction and oligohydramnios. These can be associated with fetal death in utero.

Although no adverse fetal effects have been linked to first trimester drug use of ACE inhibitors, the number of exposures

reported is too small to determine conclusively that ACE inhibitors are safe in the first trimester. Pregnant women who are taking ACE inhibitors should be changed as quickly as possible to other antihypertensive medication to maintain normal blood pressure. It is generally advisable not to use ACE inhibitors for the management of hypertension in women who are likely to become pregnant.

Captopril, cilazapril, enalapril, fosinopril, lisinopril, perindopril, quinapril, ramipril, trandolapril

D

ANGIOTENSIN II RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS (ARAS)

When used in pregnancy during the second and third trimesters, drugs that act directly on the renin-angiotensin system can cause injury and even death in the developing fetus.

Although no adverse fetal effects have been linked to first trimester drug use of ARAs, the number of exposures reported is too small to determine conclusively that ARAs are safe in the first trimester. Pregnant women who are taking ARAs should be changed as quickly as possible to other antihypertensive medication to maintain normal blood pressure. It is generally advisable not to use ARAs for the management of hypertension in women who are likely to become pregnant.

Candesartan cilexetil, eprosartan, irbesartan, losartan, valsartan

D

CALCIUM CHANNEL BLOCKERS

These drugs carry the potential to produce fetal hypoxia associated with maternal hypotension.

Amlodipine, diltiazem, felodipine, isradipine, nifedipine, nimodipine, nisoldipine, verapamil

C

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

BETA-ADRENERGIC BLOCKING AGENTS

These agents may cause pharmacological effects such as bradycardia in the fetus and newborn infant.

Alprenolol, atenolol, betaxolol, bevantolol, carvedilol, esmolol, labetalol, levobunolol, metoprolol, oxprenolol, pindolol, propranolol, sotalol, timolol

C

DIURETICS

Carbonic anhydrase inhibitor

Acetazolamide

B3

Thiazides, related diuretics and loop diuretics

These drugs may cause electrolyte disturbances in the fetus. Neonatal thrombocytopenia has been reported with thiazides and related diuretics. Loop diuretics, like frusemide and bumetanide, are probably also associated with this risk. During the latter part of pregnancy products of this type should only be given on sound indications, and then in the lowest effective dose.

Bendrofluazide, bumetanide, chlorothiazide, chlorthalidone, clopamide, cyclopenthiiazide, ethacrynic acid, frusemide, hydrochlorothiazide, indapamide, mefruside, methychlothiazide, metolazone, quinethazone

C

Potassium sparing diuretics

Amiloride, triamterene

C

These drugs may result in electrolyte disturbances in the fetus.

Spirolactone

B3

This drug carries the potential to cause feminisation of the male fetus and should be avoided during pregnancy.

ANTIARRHYTHMICS

Adenosine, disopyramide, procainamide **B2**

Amiodarone **C**

Because of the long half-life of amiodarone and its major metabolite, and the potential to cause abnormal thyroid function and bradycardia in the fetus, its use is probably best avoided in the three months before and throughout the duration of pregnancy. When exposure of the fetus is unavoidable, thyroid function (including TSH) should be assessed promptly in the newborn infant.

Bretylium tosylate **C**

This drug carries the potential for fetal hypoxia associated with maternal hypotension.

Flecainide **B3**

Lignocaine **A**

Mexiletine **B1**

Quinidine **C**

This drug is structurally similar to quinine, which in high doses, has been shown to cause fetal damage. It has been used to treat fetal cardiac arrhythmia

ANTIANGINA AGENTS

Glycerol trinitrate, isosorbide mononitrate, perhexilene **B2**

Isosorbide dinitrate, tirofiban hydrochloride **B1**

Nicorandil **B3**

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

HYPOLIPIDAEMIC AGENTS

The physiological hyperlipidaemia of pregnancy does not require treatment.

Atorvastatin, cerivastatin, fluvastatin, pravastatin, simvastatin C

Cholesterol and other products of the cholesterol biosynthesis pathway are essential components for fetal development, including synthesis of steroids and cell membranes. Because of the ability of inhibitors of HMG-CoA reductase to decrease the synthesis of cholesterol and possibly other products of the cholesterol biosynthesis pathway, these drugs may cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman.

Cholestyramine, colestipol, nicotinic acid B2

Clofibrate, probucol B1

Gemfibrozil B3

CARDIAC INOTROPIC AGENTS

Digoxin and other cardiac glycosides A

Milrinone B3

ADRENERGIC STIMULANTS

Adrenaline, ephedrine, fenoterol, isoprenaline, orciprenaline, rimiterol, salbutamol, terbutaline A

Dobutamine, phenylephrine, phenylpropanolamine, pseudoephedrine B2

Dopamine B3

Metaraminol C

This drug may cause fetal hypoxia by constricting the uterine vessels thereby limiting placental perfusion.

VASODILATORS

Betahistine, glyceryl trinitrate, nicotinic acid B2

Dipyridamole, isosorbide dinitrate, nicotiny alcohol, oxpentifylline, phentolamine, sildenafil citrate B1

Isoxsuprine C

Maternal isoxsuprine administration for prevention of premature labour has been associated with tachycardia, hypoglycaemia, hypocalcaemia, ileus and hypotension in the neonate.

Papaverine A

Phenoxybenzamine B2

This drug is known to be mutagenic and carcinogenic in rodents.

ANTIMIGRAINE PREPARATIONS

Dihydroergotamine, ergotamine, methysergide C

Standard oral dose regimens for migraine headaches in the first half of pregnancy do not appear to pose hazards to the fetus.

Ergotamine induces uterine contraction and may therefore cause premature parturition or hypertonic labour. Larger doses or more frequent use may jeopardise the fetus because of the potential for impeding fetal blood supply.

Naratriptan, sumatriptan, zolmitriptan B3

Pizotifen B1

ANTICOAGULANTS AND THROMBOLYTIC AGENTS

All of these agents can produce placental haemorrhage and subsequent prematurity and fetal loss.

Abciximab C

Dalteparin, danaparoid, enoxaparin, nadroparin, C

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

Desirudin	B3
Heparin	C
Phenindione	D
This drug can cause birth defects when used in the first trimester of pregnancy.	
Ticlopidine	B1
Warfarin	D
Warfarin has been associated with the development of a specific embryopathy following exposure at 6 to 9 weeks post conception. Exposure following first trimester of pregnancy can cause fetal bleeding leading to CNS damage. There is also an increased risk of spontaneous abortion and perinatal bleeding. It should not be used in the last few weeks of pregnancy.	

HAEMOSTATIC AGENTS

Aprotinin, eptacog alfa, tranexamic acid	B1
Human coagulation factor IX	C
The safe use of this drug during pregnancy has not been established in controlled clinical trials.	
Kogenate, protamine	B2
Aminocaproic acid, o rniipressin	B3

FIBRINOLYTIC AGENTS

Alteplase, urokinase	B1
Retepase	C
Streptokinase	C
Only minimal amounts of streptokinase cross the placenta. Streptokinase-specific antibodies are found in fetal blood.	

OTHER CARDIOVASCULAR AGENTS

Oxpentifylline

B1

Tirilazad

B2

IRON AND HAEMOPOIETIC AGENTS

Erythropoietin, filgrastim, lenograstim, molgramostim	B3
Folic acid	A
Folinic acid	A
Oral iron preparations (with or without folic acid), parenteral iron preparations	A

ANALGESICS, ANTIPYRETICS

(See also non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs page 21)

OPIOID ANALGESICS

Opioid analgesics may cause respiratory depression in the newborn infant. Withdrawal symptoms in newborn infants have been reported with prolonged use of this class of drugs.

Alfentanil, buprenorphine, dextromoramide, dextropropoxyphene, fentanyl, hydromorphone, methadone, morphine, oxycodone, papaveretum, pentazocine, pethidine, phenoperidine, remifentanil, tramadol

C

Aspirin

C

Aspirin inhibits prostaglandin synthesis. When given late in pregnancy, it may cause premature closure of the fetal ductus arteriosus, delay labour and birth. Aspirin increases the bleeding time both in the newborn infant and in the mother because of its antiplatelet effects. Products containing aspirin should be avoided in the last trimester. Low-dose aspirin (100mg/day) does not affect bleeding time.

Codeine, dihydrocodeine

A

Prolonged high-dose use of codeine prior to delivery may produce codeine withdrawal symptoms in the neonate.

Paracetamol

A

HYPNOTICS AND SEDATIVES**Barbiturates**

These drugs can give rise to hypotension, respiratory depression and hypothermia in the newborn infant. Continuous treatment during pregnancy and administration during labour should be avoided.

Amylobarbitone, pentobarbitone

C

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

OTHER HYPNOTICS AND SEDATIVES

Chloral hydrate, chlormethiazole **A**

Meprobamate **C**

This drug may cause hypotension, respiratory depression and hypothermia in the newborn infant.

Zolpidem tartrate **B3**

Zopiclone **C**

This drug is likely to produce CNS depression in newborn infants when given during labour.

ANTI-ANXIETY AGENTS

Buspirone **B1**

BENZODIAZEPINES

Benzodiazepines may cause hypotonia, respiratory depression and hypothermia in the newborn infant if used in high doses during labour. Withdrawal symptoms in newborn infants have been reported with prolonged use of this class of drugs.

Alprazolam, bromazepam, chlordiazepoxide, clobazam, clonazepam, clorazepate, diazepam, flunitrazepam, flurazepam, lorazepam, midazolam, nitrazepam, oxazepam, temazepam, triazolam **C**

ANTI-PSYCHOTIC AGENTS

Phenothiazines

When given in high doses during late pregnancy, phenothiazines have caused prolonged neurological disturbances in the newborn infant.

Chlorpromazine, fluphenazine, pericyazine, perphenazine, promazine, thiopropazate, thioridazine, trifluoperazine **C**

Butyrophenones

When given in high doses during late pregnancy, butyrophenones may cause prolonged neurological disturbances in the newborn infant.

Droperidol, haloperidol

C

OTHER ANTIPSYCHOTIC DRUGS**Clozapine**

C

The adverse pharmacological and toxicological effects of clozapine in adults may also occur in the fetus.

Flupenthixol

C

When given in high doses during late pregnancy, related compounds have caused prolonged neurological disturbances in the newborn infant.

Lithium salts

D

The risk of birth defects may be increased when lithium is used during the first trimester. Second trimester detailed ultrasound examination and fetal echocardiography should be considered for women who have been treated with lithium during the first trimester of pregnancy. The newborn may show signs of lithium toxicity.

Olanzapine, risperidone

B3

Pimozide, thiothixene

B1

Zuclopenthixol

C

When given in high doses during late pregnancy, related compounds have caused prolonged neurological disturbances in the newborn infant.

ANTIDEPRESSANTS

Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs)

SSRIs have had limited use in pregnancy without a reported increase in birth defects. The use of SSRIs in the third trimester may result in a withdrawal state in the newborn infant.

Citalopram, fluoxetine, fluvoxamine, paroxetine, sertraline C

Tricyclic antidepressants

Withdrawal symptoms in newborn infants have been reported with prolonged maternal use of this class of drugs.

Amitriptyline, clomipramine, desipramine, dothiepin, doxepin, imipramine, nortriptyline, protriptyline, trimipramine C

Tetracyclic antidepressants

Mianserin B2

Monoamine oxidase inhibitors

Phenelzine B3

Tranylcypromine B2

OTHER ANTIDEPRESSANTS

Mirtazapine, moclobemide, nefazodone B3

Venlafaxine B2

CNS STIMULANTS

Caffeine A

Dextroamphetamine B3

Methylphenidate B2

ANTIPARKINSON AGENTS

Amantadine, apomorphine, benserazide, carbidopa, entacapone, levodopa, ropinirole, **B3**

Benzotropine, biperiden, selegiline **B2**

Benzhexol **B1**

Pergolide **C**

Studies in rodents have shown no evidence of harm to the fetus. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. This drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Procyclidine **A**

ANTICONVULSANTS / ANTIEPILEPTICS

The risk of having an abnormal child as a result of antiepileptic medication is far outweighed by the dangers to the mother and fetus of uncontrolled epilepsy.

It is recommended that:

- *women on antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) receive prepregnancy counselling with regard to the risk of fetal abnormalities;*
- *AEDs should be continued during pregnancy and monotherapy should be used if possible at the lowest effective dose as risk of abnormality is greater in women taking combined medication;*
- *folic acid supplementation (5mg) should be commenced four weeks prior to and continue for twelve weeks after conception;*
- *Specialist prenatal diagnosis including detailed mid-trimester ultrasound should be offered.*

Commonly Prescribed Anticonvulsants/Antiepileptics

Carbamazepine

D

Spina bifida occurs in about one percent of pregnancies in which carbamazepine is used as monotherapy. Carbamazepine taken during pregnancy also has been associated with minor craniofacial defects, fingernail hypoplasia and developmental disability. Carbamazepine also can cause coagulation defects with consequent risk of haemorrhage in the fetus and the newborn infant which may be preventable by the prophylactic administration of vitamin K to the mother prior to delivery.

Phenytoin sodium

D

This drug taken during pregnancy has been associated with craniofacial defects, fingernail hypoplasia, developmental disability, growth retardation and less frequently, oral clefts and cardiac anomalies. This clinical pattern is sometimes called the 'fetal hydantoin syndrome'. Phenytoin also can cause coagulation defects with consequent risk of haemorrhage in the fetus and the newborn infant which may be preventable by the prophylactic administration of vitamin K to the mother prior to delivery.

Methylphenobarbitone, phenobarbitone, primidone

D

The use in pregnancy of primidone, phenobarbitone or methylphenobarbitone has been associated with minor craniofacial defects, fingernail hypoplasia and developmental disability. Their use in pregnancy alone, or in combination with other anticonvulsants, can cause coagulation defects in the newborn infant which may be preventable by the prophylactic administration of vitamin K to the mother prior to delivery.

Sodium valproate (valproic acid)

D

If taken in the first trimester of pregnancy, sodium valproate (valproic acid) is associated with a one to two percent risk of neural tube defects (especially spina bifida) in the exposed fetus. Women taking sodium valproate (valproic acid) who become pregnant should be encouraged to consider detailed mid-trimester morphology ultrasound for prenatal diagnosis of such abnormalities.

Other anticonvulsants / antiepileptics

Compared to conventional anticonvulsants, the extent of the risk of the following drugs is unknown.

Clonazepam

C

Clonazepam is a benzodiazepine. These drugs may cause hypotonia, respiratory depression and hypothermia in the newborn infant if used in high doses during labour. Withdrawal symptoms in newborn infants have been reported with this class of drugs.

Ethosuximide, methsuximide, phensuximide, sulthiame, vigabatrin

D

Gabapentin

B1

Lamotrigine, tiagabine, topiramate

B3

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

ANTIEMETICS, ANTINAUSEANTS

Phenothiazines

When given in high doses during late pregnancy, phenothiazines have caused prolonged neurological disturbances in the infant.

Prochlorperazine, promethazine, thiethylperazine **C**

OTHERS

Dimenhydrinate, diphenhydramine, metoclopramide **A**

Dolasetron, granisetron, ondansetron **B1**

Domperidone, hyoscine, hyoscine hydrobromide **B2**

Tropisetron **B3**

OTHER AGENTS ACTING ON THE CNS

Tetrabenazine **B2**

NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS (NSAIDs)

(See also analgesics, antipyretics page 13)

These agents inhibit prostaglandin synthesis and, when given during the latter part of pregnancy, may cause closure of the fetal ductus arteriosus, fetal renal impairment, inhibition of platelet aggregation, and delay labour and birth. Continuous treatment with NSAIDs during the last trimester of pregnancy should only be given on sound indications. During the last few days before expected birth, agents with an inhibitory effect on prostaglandin synthesis should be avoided.

Diclofenac, diflunisal, ibuprofen, indomethacin, ketoprofen, ketorolac, mefenamic acid, nabumetone, naproxen, phenylbutazone, piroxicam, sodium salicylate, sulindac, tenoxicam, tiaprofenic acid

C

ANTIRHEUMATOID AGENTS

Aurothioglucose, sodium aurothiomalate,

B2

Auranofin

B3

Hydroxychloroquine

D

When used in high doses and for prolonged periods, chloroquine and related substances may cause neurological disturbances and interference with hearing, balance and vision in the fetus.

Penicillamine

D

This drug can cause cutis laxa in the human fetus.

MUSCLE RELAXANTS

Baclofen, botulinum type A

B3

Dantrolene, methocarbamol, orphenadrine,

B2

Physostigmine

C

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM

Quinine

D

At standard doses, quinine has not been associated with fetal damage. In toxic doses, quinine causes fetal damage including deafness. Its ability to induce uterine contractions also constitutes a risk of abortion.

AGENTS USED IN GOUT AND HYPERURICAEMIA

Allopurinol, colchicine, probenecid, sulfinpyrazone

B2

OESTROGENS (SEE ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES)

Dienoestrol	X
Ethinylloestradiol, mestranol	B3
Oestradiol, oestriol, oestrone, piperazine oestrone sulfate	B1
Oestrogens conjugated	D

PROGESTOGENS (SEE ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES)

If taken by the mother at or after 8 weeks post conception, these drugs can cause virilisation of the female fetus. This is a dose-dependent effect. Prior to 8 weeks post conception, they have no virilising effects.

Dydrogesterone, hydroxyprogesterone, megestrol, norethisterone	D
Medroxyprogesterone (oral high dose, 30-50mg daily) (see also contraceptives and anti-neoplastic agents)	D

ANTIANDROGENS

Antiandrogens carry the potential for feminisation of the male fetus at or after 8 weeks post conception and should be avoided during pregnancy.

Cyproterone acetate, spironolactone	B3
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ANDROGENS AND ANABOLIC STEROIDS

Anabolic steroids and other substances with androgenic effects may have a virilising effect on the female fetus and should be avoided during pregnancy.

Fluoxymesterone, methenolone, nandrolone, oxandrolone, oxymetholone, testosterone	D
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CORTICOSTEROIDS

Systemic

Betamethasone, cortisone, dexamethasone, fludrocortisone, hydrocortisone, methylprednisolone, prednisolone, prednisone, triamcinolone

A

Topical

Betamethasone, fludrocortisone, flumethasone, fluocinolone, fluocortolone, halcinonide, triamcinolone

A

Methylprednisolone aceponate

C

Mometasone

B3

Inhalation/Intranasal

The benefits of asthma control outweigh any potential for an adverse pregnancy outcome.

Beclomethasone, flunisolide, fluticasone, triamcinolone

B3

Budesonide

A

PITUITARY HORMONES

Corticotrophin

A

Nafarelin, goserelin

D

There is a theoretical risk of abortion or fetal abnormality if GnRH agonists are used during pregnancy.

Somatropin, thyrotrophin

B2

ANTIDIURETICS

Desmopressin, lypressin, vasopressin

B2

HYPOGLYCAEMIC AGENTS (ORAL)

*It is important to achieve strict normoglycaemia during pregnancy.
This may best be achieved by conversion to insulin therapy.*

Acarbose, miglitol

B3

Chlorpropamide, glibenclamide, gliclazide, glimepiride, glipizide, metformin, tolazamide, tolbutamide

C

The sulphonylureas may enter the fetal circulation and may cause neonatal hypoglycaemia.

THYROID HORMONES

Liothyronine, thyroxine

A

ANTITHYROID AGENTS

These agents may cause congenital goitre by inhibiting thyroxine synthesis in the fetus.

Carbimazole, propylthiouracil

C

AGENTS AFFECTING CALCIUM AND BONE METABOLISM

Alendronate, clodronate, pamidronate

B3

Calcitonin, salcatonin, tiludronate disodium

B2

Calcitriol, dihydrotachysterol

B3

Raloxifene

X

This drug causes abnormalities of the developing reproductive system when administered to pregnant rabbits and may have a similar effect in human pregnancy.

OTHER HORMONAL AGENTS

Aminoglutethimide

D

There have been reports of pseudohermaphroditism with use of this drug in pregnancy.

Octreotide

C

This drug may produce fetal growth retardation, probably due to suppression of growth hormone.

PITUITARY INHIBITORS

Bromocriptine (oral)

A

Bromocriptine (injection)

B2

Cabergoline

B1

Danazol

D

If taken by the mother at or after 8 weeks post conception, danazol may cause virilisation of the female fetus. Prior to 8 weeks post conception it has no virilising effects. Danazol may not inhibit ovulation in all women.

Gestrinone

D

This drug may interfere with pregnancy and in animal tests caused masculinisation of female fetuses. Gestrinone may not inhibit ovulation in all women.

Quinagolide

B3

OVULATION INDUCERS

Gonadotrophins

Human chorionic gonadotrophin

A

Human menopausal gonadotrophin, urofollitrophin

B2

Recombinant follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) B3

Clomiphene B3

URINARY ANTISEPTICS

Hexamine A

BLADDER FUNCTION DISORDERS

Bethanechol B2

Bethanechol has a potent excitatory effect on smooth muscle and should be avoided during pregnancy.

Finasteride X

Finasteride may cause abnormalities of the external genitalia of a male fetus.

Oxybutynin, pentosan polysulfate sodium B1

Terazosin B2

AGENTS ACTING ON THE UTERUS

Ergometrine C

This drug induces uterine contraction and may cause premature or hypertonic labour. Products containing ergometrine should be avoided during pregnancy.

Gemeprost B3

Oxytocin A

There have been instances of idiosyncratic sensitivity of the uterus resulting in fetal anoxia.

Prostaglandin E2/Dinoprostone C

There have been instances of idiosyncratic sensitivity of the uterus resulting in fetal anoxia.

Salbutamol A

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM

TOPICAL VAGINAL MEDICATION

Clindamycin, clotrimazole, econazole, miconazole, nystatin	A
Dienosliterol	B1
Isoconazole	B2

CEPHALOSPORINS

Cefaclor, cefotaxime, cefotetan, cefoxitin, cefpodoxime, ceftazidime, ceftriaxone, cephamandole, cephalozin	B1
Cefodizime, cefpirome	B2
Cephalexin, cephalothin	A

PENICILLINS

Amoxicillin, ampicillin, benzathine penicillin, benzylpenicillin, phenoxymethylpenicillin, procaine penicillin	A
Amoxicillin with clavulanic acid, flucloxacillin, mezlocillin, piperacillin, piperacillin with tazobactam	B1
Azlocillin	B3
Dicloxacillin, ticarcillin sodium with potassium clavulanate	B2

TETRACYCLINES

Tetracyclines are safe for use during the first 18 weeks of pregnancy (16 weeks post conception) after which they cause discolouration of the baby's teeth.

Demeclocycline, doxycycline, minocycline, tetracycline	D
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AMINOGLYCOSIDES

There is evidence of selective uptake of aminoglycosides by the fetal kidney resulting in damage (probably reversible) to immature nephrons. Eighth cranial nerve damage has also been reported following in utero exposure to some of the aminoglycosides. Because of their chemical similarity, all aminoglycosides must be considered potentially nephrotoxic and ototoxic to the fetus. It should also be noted that therapeutic blood concentrations in the mother do not equate with safety for the fetus.

Amikacin, gentamicin, kanamycin, neomycin, netilmicin, tobramycin	D
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ANTIMICROBIALS

ANTIFUNGAL AGENTS *(See also topical antifungals page 46)*

Amphotericin B3

Fluconazole D

Single dose therapy (150mg) does not appear to cause adverse pregnancy effects. Repeated doses of fluconazole (400-800mg daily) have been associated with a consistent pattern of birth defects similar to those seen in animal studies.

Flucytosine, griseofulvin, itraconazole, ketoconazole B3

Terbinafine B1

Nystatin A

QUINOLONES

Atrofloxacin, ciprofloxacin, enoxacin, fleroxacin, norfloxacin, ofloxacin B3

MACROLIDE ANTIBIOTICS

Azithromycin, roxithromycin B1

Clarithromycin B3

Erythromycin A

MISCELLANEOUS ANTIBIOTICS

Atovaquone, colistin IV , meropenem, metronidazole, vancomycin B2

Aztreonam, mupirocin, spectinomycin B1

Chloramphenicol, clindamycin, lincomycin, nalidixic acid A

Clavulanic acid B1

Fusidic acid C

This drug may cause kernicterus in babies during the first month of life by displacing bilirubin from plasma albumin. Fusidic acid should be avoided if possible during the last month of pregnancy.

Imipenem-cilastatin combination, teicoplanin, tinidazole B3

Nitrofurantoin (short term therapy) A

Caution should be exercised when administering nitrofurantoin at term because of the possibility of producing haemolytic anaemia in patients with glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency and due to immature enzyme systems in the early neonatal period.

Pentamidine B3

Trimethoprim B3

SULFONAMIDES

Sulfonamides may cause jaundice and haemolytic anaemia in the newborn.

Sulfadoxine, sulfadiazine, sulfamethizole, sulfamethoxazole C

Trimethoprim-sulfonamide combinations C

ANTITUBERCULOTICS AND ANTILEPTOTICS

Ethambutol, isoniazid A

Clofazimine C

Clofazimine may cause discolouration of the skin of the baby. This is reversible but recovery may be delayed because clofazimine has an average serum half life of 70 days.

Dapsone, pyrazinamide B2

Rifabutin C

Bleeding attributable to hypoprothrombinaemia has been reported in newborn infants and in mothers after the use of rifampicin during late pregnancy. If rifabutin is used during the last few weeks of pregnancy, vitamin K should be given to the mother and the newborn infant.

ANTIMICROBIALS

Rifampicin

C

Bleeding attributable to hypoprothrombinaemia has been reported in newborn infants and in mothers after the use of rifampicin during late pregnancy. If rifampicin is used during the last few weeks of pregnancy, vitamin K should be given to the mother and the newborn infant.

ANTIMALARIALS

The use of these drugs in the treatment of malaria is accepted because the small risk to the fetus is outweighed by the benefits to the mother and fetus. Prophylaxis in high risk situations is also justified.

Chloroquine (prophylaxis)

A

Chloroquine (treatment), hydroxychloroquine

D

When used in high doses and for prolonged periods, chloroquine and related substances may cause neurological disturbances and interference with hearing, balance and vision in the fetus.

Doxycycline

D

Tetracyclines are safe for use during the first 18 weeks of pregnancy (16 weeks post conception) after which they cause discolouration of the baby's teeth.

Mefloquine, pyrimethamine-dapsone combination

B3

Primaquine phosphate

D

Avoid use in third trimester as primaquine may cause neonatal haemolysis and methaemoglobinaemia.

Proguanil

B2

If given during pregnancy, folic acid supplementation should be given. Proguanil has been used extensively with no adverse pregnancy outcome.

Pyrimethamine

B3

This drug may interfere with folic acid metabolism and animal experiments have shown that administration of very high doses of pyrimethamine during organ development may give rise to birth defects typical of folic acid antagonism. If pyrimethamine is given during pregnancy, folic acid supplementation should be given.

Pyrimethamine-sulfadoxine combination

C

Pyrimethamine may interfere with folic acid metabolism and if it is given during pregnancy folic acid supplementation should be given. Sulfonamides may cause jaundice and haemolytic anaemia in the newborn.

Quinine (treatment)

D

In toxic doses, quinine causes fetal damage including deafness. Its ability to induce uterine contractions also constitutes a risk of abortion.

ANTIVIRAL AGENTS**Aciclovir , indinavir , ritonavir , valaciclovir**

B3

Cidofovir

D

This drug could be expected to cause fetal loss and birth defects.

Delavirdine, foscarnet, lamivudine, nevirapine, stavudine, zidovudine

B3

Didanosine

B2

Famciclovir , saquinavir

B1

Ganciclovir

D

This drug has been shown to be teratogenic and embryotoxic in animals.

Nelfinavir

B2

ANTIMICROBIALS

Ribavirin X

Although there are no pertinent human data, ribavirin has been found to be teratogenic and/or embryolethal in nearly all species in which it has been tested. Malformations of skull, palate, eye, jaw, skeleton and gastrointestinal tract were noted in animal studies. Survival of fetuses and offspring was reduced.

Zalcitabine D

This drug is teratogenic in two animal species.

ANTHELMINTICS

Albendazole D

In animal studies albendazole is teratogenic in several species. Until human data are available, it must be suspected of being teratogenic.

Ivermectin, mebendazole, thiabendazole B3

Praziquantel B1

Pyrantel embonate, diethylcarbamazine B2

Cytotoxic agents can produce spontaneous abortion, fetal loss and birth defects.

ALKYLATING AGENTS

Busulfan, carmustine, chlorambucil, cyclophosphamide, estramustine, fotemustine, ifosfamide, lomustine, melphalan, mustine, thiotepa

D

ANTIMETABOLITES

Cladribine, colaspase, cytarabine, docetaxel, fluorouracil, gemcitabine, hydroxyurea, methotrexate, mercaptopurine, paclitaxel, raltitrexed, thioguanine, topotecan

D

VINCA ALKALOIDS

Vinblastine, vincristine, vindesine, vinorelbine tartrate

D

ANTIBIOTIC CYTOTOXIC AGENTS

Bleomycin, dactinomycin, daunorubicin, doxorubicin, epirubicin, fludarabine, idarubicin, mitomycin, mitozantrone

D

HORMONAL ANTINEOPLASTIC AGENTS

Aminoglutethimide

D

There have been reports of pseudohermaphroditism with use of this drug in pregnancy.

Anastrozole

C

This drug disrupts oestrogen dependent metabolism and may result in abortion.

Goserelin, letrozole, leuprorelin

D

There is a theoretical risk of abortion or fetal abnormality if GnRH agonists are used during pregnancy.

ANTINEOPLASTIC AGENTS

Medroxyprogesterone (oral and IM high dose) D
May cause virilisation of fetus if taken 8 weeks after conception.

Tamoxifen, toremifene B3

OTHER ANTINEOPLASTIC AGENTS

Altretamine, amsacrine, carboplatin, cisplatin, dacarbazine, etoposide, irinotecan, procarbazine, samarium^[153 Sm], teniposide D

Tretinoin (Oral) X

This is a potent teratogen when taken systemically during early pregnancy, producing a pattern of birth defects termed retinoic acid embryopathy. The teratogenic effect is dose-dependent.

NON-CYTOTOXIC SUPPORTIVE THERAPY

Amifostine B3

Mesna B1

ANORECTIC AND WEIGHT REDUCING AGENTS

Weight reduction using appetite suppressant drugs is not recommended in pregnancy.

Dexfenfluramine, mazindol, phentermine

B3

Diethylpropion, fenfluramine

B2

OTHER DRUGS USED FOR THE TREATMENT OF METABOLIC DISORDERS

Alglucerase, cysteamine bitartrate

B3

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

ANTITUSSIVES

Opium alkaloids and derivatives: codeine, dextromethorphan, dihydrocodeine, pholcodine **A**

EXPECTORANTS AND MUCOLYTICS

Acetylcysteine (inhaled) **B2**

Ammonium chloride, bromhexine, emetine, guaiphenesin, ipecacuanha, saponins **A**

DECONGESTANTS

Phenylephrine, phenylpropanolamine, pseudoephedrine **B2**

INHALATIONAL AGENTS

The agents that contain norflurane as the propellant have had limited human exposure. Norflurane has been shown to be safe in animals. The prescriber should consult the full pi for more information.

Bronchospasm relaxants

Eformoterol, salmeterol **B3**

Ephedrine, fenoterol, isoprenaline, orciprenaline, rimiterol, salbutamol, terbutaline, theophylline derivatives **A**

Ipratropium bromide **B1**

Preventive aerosols and inhalations

Beclomethasone, budesonide, fluticasone, salmeterol **B3**

The benefits of asthma control outweigh any potential for an adverse pregnancy outcome.

Nedocromil **B1**

Sodium cromoglycate **A**

OTHER RESPIRATORY AGENTS

Acetylcysteine

B2

Dornase alfa, montelukast, zafirlukast

B1

ANTIHISTAMINES

Azatadine, cetirizine, diphenylpyraline, fexofenadine, methdilazine, terfenadine B2

Brompheniramine, chlorpheniramine, clemastine, cyproheptadine, dexchlorpheniramine, diphenhydramine, diphenylamine, doxylamine, pheniramine, triprolidine A

Chlorcyclizine, cyclizine, hydroxyzine A

Levocabastine B3

Inadvertent short term exposure during the first trimester is unlikely to cause a hazard to the fetus but it has been shown to be teratogenic in two species of animals and until human data are available, it should be suspected of being teratogenic.

Loratadine B1

Trimeprazine, promethazine C

When given in high doses during late pregnancy, phenothiazines have caused prolonged neurological disturbances in the infant.

VACCINES

LIVE ATTENUATED VIRUS VACCINES

Currently available live virus vaccines have not caused teratogenic effects in humans. The NHMRC publication, The Australian Immunisation Procedures Handbook, should be consulted for more comprehensive information.

B.C.G., measles, measles-mumps, measles-mumps-rubella, mumps, typhoid (oral), yellow fever B2

Poliomyelitis (oral), typhoid (injection) A

Rubella**B2**

Women of child bearing age should be tested for rubella antibodies prior to pregnancy. All seronegative women, provided they are not pregnant, should be offered rubella vaccine. Those administering the vaccine should be careful to instruct women to whom it is given that they should not become pregnant for at least two full menstrual cycles because rubella vaccine can cause fetal infection. However, to date, there have not been any rubella-like birth defects in the live born infants (about 400) of seronegative mothers vaccinated during or just before pregnancy. Based on this experience, rubella vaccination during pregnancy need not be the reason to recommend interruption of pregnancy.

KILLED VACCINES

Cholera, haemophilus influenzae type B, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, influenza, meningococcal, pneumococcal, poliomyelitis (injection)

B2

Diphtheria, tetanus

A

Rabies vaccine

B2

The benefit clearly outweighs the risk for post exposure situations.

IMMUNOMODIFIERS

Azathioprine

D

This drug has been associated with a slightly increased risk of fetal malformations, neonatal immunosuppression and bone marrow suppression in the infant.

Cyclosporin

C

This drug may cause immunosuppression in the infant.

Interferon alpha-2a, interferon alpha-2b, interferon gamma-1b

B3

ALLERGY AND IMMUNE SYSTEM

Interferon beta-1a	D
Interferon beta-1a has abortifacient activity in monkeys.	
Interferon beta-1b	D
This drug has abortifacient activity in monkeys. Spontaneous abortions have been reported in subjects with multiple sclerosis in controlled clinical trials.	
Levamisole	B3
Mycophenolate mofetil	D
Mycophenolate has been shown to be teratogenic in two species of animals. It inhibits nucleic acid synthesis and may cause fetal malformations/death.	
Rituximab	C
Antibodies of this class are known to cross the fetoplacental barrier and may cause B cell depletion and/or other unknown effects.	
Tacrolimus	C
This drug may cause immunosuppression in the infant. Use of tacrolimus during pregnancy has been associated with neonatal hyperkalaemia and renal dysfunction.	

Benzydamine (topical oropharyngeal)

B2

OPHTHALMIC DRUGS

Acetazolamide, apraclonidine, dorzolamide, latanoprost, levocabastine	B3
Betaxolol, levobunolol, timolol	C
Beta-adrenergic blocking agents may cause pharmacological effects such as bradycardia in the fetus and newborn infant.	
Brimonidine tartrate, Iodoxamide trometamol	B1
Chloramphenicol	A
Ecothiopate	B2
Flurbiprofen	B2
Idoxuridine	B3

SYSTEMIC

Acitretin, etretinate

X

These drugs are teratogenic at doses within the therapeutic range. They are stored in the body for several months after cessation. Because of the long half-life of these drugs and storage in fat, patients are advised not to conceive until two years after cessation of treatment because of risk of birth defects. Should pregnancy occur during treatment with these drugs, there is a high risk of birth defects.

Isotretinoin

X

Isotretinoin is teratogenic and must not be used by females who are pregnant or who may possibly become pregnant while undergoing treatment and for one month after isotretinoin has stopped. Should pregnancy occur during treatment with this drug, there is a high risk of birth defects (refer to current Product Information).

TOPICAL

Adapalene

D

There have been isolated reports of birth defects in babies born to women using this drug. Because of the potential risk of adverse effects on fetal development, adapalene should not be used by women who are pregnant or who plan to become pregnant during treatment.

Azelaic acid, calcipotriol

B1

Desonide

B3

Finasteride

X

Finasteride may cause abnormalities of the external genitalia of a male fetus.

Isotretinoin**D**

Isotretinoin is known to be teratogenic when administered orally in human beings. It is associated with major birth defects and with a small risk of spontaneous abortion.

Methoxsalen**B2****Tretinoin****D**

Use of tretinoin cream formulation during the first trimester does not appear to cause birth defects. Other formulations should not be used during pregnancy. There have been isolated reports of birth defects in babies born to women using topical tretinoin in pregnancy, some similar to those reported with oral retinoids. While a retrospective cohort study on women exposed to tretinoin in the first trimester did not reveal an association with this treatment, the numbers in this study are too small to establish the safety of use in pregnancy.

TOPICAL ANTIFUNGALS, ANTISEPTICS**Amorolfine, bifonazole,****B3****Cetylpyridinium, chlorhexidine, chlorquinaldol, clotrimazole, econazole, hydroxyquinoline, miconazole****A****TOPICAL ANTIPARASITICS****Benzyl benzoate, bioallethrin, crotamiton, maldison (malathion), permethrin, pyrethrins****B2****Lindane****B3**

Lindane penetrates human skin and has been reported to cause signs of CNS irritation. Because of this toxic potential it is preferable, whenever possible, to use other medications during pregnancy.

Piperonyl butoxide**B3**

TOPICAL ANTIVIRAL**Aciclovir****B3****Idoxuridine, imiquimod, penciclovir****B1**

GENERAL ANAESTHETICS

All general anaesthetics carry the potential to produce central nervous system and respiratory depression in the newborn infant. In routine practice this does not appear to be a problem. However, in the compromised fetus, careful consideration should be given to this potential depression and to the selection of particular anaesthetic drugs, doses and techniques.

Enflurane, halothane, ketamine, thiopentone	A
Desflurane, isoflurane	B3
Methohexitone, sevoflurane	B2
Methoxyflurane	C
Nitrous oxide	A
Propofol	C

LOCAL ANAESTHETICS

Bupivacaine, cinchocaine, lignocaine, mepivacaine, prilocaine	A
Etidocaine, ropivacaine	B1
Procaine hydrochloride	B2

NEUROMUSCULAR BLOCKING AGENTS

Alcuronium, mivacurium, pancuronium, rocuronium	B2
Atracurium, gallamine, pipercuronium, tubocurarine, vecuronium	C
<i>There have been no demonstrated adverse effects in the fetus or the newborn infant.</i>	
Suxamethonium	A

Medroxyprogesterone (IM contraceptive dose) **A**

ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES

Combined, progestogen only **B3**

Accumulated evidence reports that inadvertent exposure to these agents in early pregnancy has not been associated with an increased risk of birth defects.

VAGINAL SPERMICIDES

Nonoxynol 9, octoxinol **A**

DIAGNOSTIC AGENTS

If a radiological contrast or other diagnostic agent is not in this booklet refer to the product information or contact an obstetric drug information service (see Appendix B).

RADIOGRAPHIC AGENTS

Ioversol	B1
Gadodiamide, iomeprol	B3
Galactose and palmitic acid	B2

PITUITARY-ADRENAL RESPONSE TEST

Metyrapone	B2
Tetracosactrin	D

There have been some reports of miscarriage or fetal malformation occurring in pregnant women treated with tetracosactrin.

DETOXIFYING AGENTS, ANTIDOTES

Acetylcysteine (intravenous), digoxin immune fab	B2
Desferrioxamine, flumazenil	B3
Naloxone	B1
Penicillamine	D
Penicillamine can cause cutis laxa in the human fetus.	

CHOLINERGIC AND ANTICHOLINERGIC AGENTS

Atropine, hyoscine methobromide, papaverine	A
Atropine methonitrate, belladonna, glycopyrrolate, hyoscine, hyoscine-N-butylbromide, hyoscyamine, propantheline	B2
Bethanechol	B2
This drug has a potent excitatory effect on smooth muscle and should be avoided during pregnancy.	
Donepezil	B3
Tacrine	C
This drug may produce cholinergic effects in the fetus.	

DRUGS USED IN MYASTHENIA GRAVIS

Amibenonium chloride, neostigmine	B2
Pyridostigmine	C
The maternal requirement for this drug in the context of myasthenia gravis may be absolute. Cholinergic effects in the neonate are rare.	

AGENTS USED IN DEPENDENCY STATES

Calcium carbimide	A
Disulfiram	B2

MISCELLANEOUS

Methadone C

Narcotic analgesics may cause respiratory depression in the newborn infant. Withdrawal symptoms in newborn infants have been reported with prolonged use of this drug.

Naltrexone B3

Nicotine — transdermal D **— in chewing gum** D

The harmful effects of cigarette smoking on maternal and fetal health are clearly established. The specific effects of nicotine therapy on fetal development are unknown. Short-term exposure during the first trimester is unlikely to cause a hazard to the fetus.

VITAMINS

Nicotinic acid B2

Vitamin A D

Excess vitamin A may cause birth defects. Women should consider their dietary intake of vitamin A before taking supplements. The Australian diet usually contains the recommended daily allowance of 2500 IU.

abciximab	9	aminocaproic acid	10
acarbose	25	aminoglutethimide	26, 35
acetazolamide	6, 44	aminoglycosides	29
acetylcysteine (injection)	51	amiodarone	7
acetylcysteine (inhaled)	38	amitriptyline	16
acitretin	45	amlodipine	5
aciclovir	33, 47	ammonium chloride	38
adapalene	45	amorolfine	46
adenosine	7	amoxicillin	29
adrenaline	8	amoxicillin with clavulanic acid	29
adrenergic stimulants	8	amphotericin	30
alatrofloxacin	30	ampicillin	29
albendazole	34	amsacrine	36
alcuronium	48	amylobarbitone	13
alendronate	25	anabolic steroids	23
alfentanil	13	anaesthetics general	48
alginates	2	anaesthetics local	48
alglucerase	37	analgesics	13
alkylating agents	35	analgesics, opioid	13
allopurinol	22	anastrozole	35
alprazolam	14	androgens	23
alprenolol	6	angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors	4
alteplase	10	angiotensin II receptor antagonists (ARAS)	5
altretamine	36	anorectic agents	37
amantadine	17	antacids	2
ambenonium chloride	51	anthelmintics	34
amifostine	36	antiandrogens	23
amikacin	29		
amiloride	6		

INDEX

antiangina agents	7	antinauseants	20
antianxiety agents	14	antineoplastic agents, hormonal	35
antiarrhythmic drugs	7	antineoplastic agents, non-cytotoxic	36
antibiotic cytotoxic agents	35	antineoplastic agents, other	36
antibiotics	30, 35	antiparasitics, topical	46
anti-cancer agents	35	antiparkinson agents	17
anticholinergic agents	51	antipsychotic agents	14
anticoagulants	9	antipyretics	13
anticonvulsants	17, 18	antirheumatoid drugs (see also NSAIDs)	21
antidepressants, tetracyclic	16	antiseptics, topical	46
antidepressants, tricyclic	16	antiseptics, urinary	27
antidiarrhoeals	2	antispasmodics	2
antidiuretics	24	antithyroid agents	25
antidotes	51	antituberculotics	31
antiemetics (see also phenothiazines)	20	antitussives	38
antiepileptics	17, 18	antiulcerants	2
antifungal agents	30	antiviral agents	33
antifungals, topical	46	antiviral agents, topical	47
antihistamines	40	apomorphine	17
antihypertensives	4	appetite suppressants	37
anti-inflammatories, non-steroidal	21	apraclonidine	44
antileptotics	31	aprotinin	10
antimalarials	32	aspirin	13
antimetabolites	35	asthma, drugs used in treatment of	38
antimicrobials	30	atenolol	6
antimigraine preparations	9	atorvastatin	8
antimycotics (see antifungals)	30		

atovaquone	30	benzylpenicillin	29
atracurium besylate	48	beta-adrenergic blocking agents	6
atropine	2, 51	betahistine	9
atropine methonitrate	51	betamethasone (systemic)	24
auranofin	21	betamethasone (topical)	24
aurothioglucose	21	betaxolol	6, 44
aurothiomalate sodium	21	bethanechol	27, 51
azatadine	40	bevantolol	6
azathioprine	41	bifonazole	46
azelaic acid	45	bioallethrin	46
azithromycin	30	biperiden	17
azlocillin	29	bisacodyl	2
aztreonam	30	bismuth subcitrate	2
		bladder function disorders	27
B.C.G. vaccine	40	bleomycin	35
baclofen	21	botulinum type A	21
barbiturates (see also phenobarbitone)	13	bretylum tosylate	7
beclomethasone	24, 38	brimonidine tartrate	44
belladonna	51	bromazepam	14
bendrofluzide	6	bromhexine	38
benserazide	17	bromocriptine (oral and injection)	26
benzathine penicillin	29	brompheniramine	40
benzhexol	17	bronchospasm relaxants	38
benzodiazepines	14	budesonide	3, 24, 38
benztropine	17	bumetanide	6
benzylamine (topical oropharyngeal)	43	bupivacaine	48
benzyl benzoate	46	buprenorphine	13
		buspirone	14

INDEX

busulfan	35	cefprome	29
butyrophenones	15	cefepime	29
cabergoline	26	ceftazidime	29
caffeine	16	ceftriaxone	29
calcipotriol	45	cephalexin	29
calcitonin	25	cephalosporins	29
calcitriol	25	cephalothin	29
calcium and bone metabolism, agents	25	cephamandole	29
calcium carbimide	51	cephazolin	29
calcium channel blockers	5	cerivastatin	8
candesartan cilexetil	5	cetirizine	40
captopril	5	cetylpyridinium	46
carbamazepine	18	chenodeoxycholic acid	3
carbidopa	17	chloral hydrate	14
carbimazole	25	chlorambucil	35
carbonic anhydrase inhibitor	6	chloramphenicol	30, 44
carboplatin	36	chlorcyclizine	40
cardiac glycosides	8	chlordiazepoxide	14
cardiac inotropic agents	8	chlorhexidine	46
carmustine	35	chlormethiazole	14
carvedilol	6	chloroquine (prophylaxis, treatment)	32
cascara	2	chlorothiazide	6
cefaclor	29	chlorpheniramine	40
cefodizime	29	chlorpromazine	14
cefotaxime	29	chlorpropamide	25
cefotetan	29	chlorquinaldol	46
cefoxitin	29	chlorthalidone	6
		cholelitholytics	3

cholera vaccine	41	CNS stimulants	16
cholestyramine	8	codeine	13, 38
cholinergic agents	51	colaspase	35
chorionic gonadotrophin	26	colchicine	22
cidofovir	33	colestipol	8
cilazapril	5	colistin injection	30
cimetidine	2	contraceptives agents	49
cinchocaine	48	contraceptives, oral	23
ciprofloxacin	30	corticosteroids	24
cisapride	2	corticotrophin	24
cisplatin	36	cortisone	24
citalopram	16	cromoglycate sodium	38
cladribine	35	crotamiton	46
clarithromycin	30	cyclizine	40
clavulanic acid	30	cyclopenthiazine	6
clemastine	40	cyclophosphamide	35
clindamycin	28, 30	cyclosporin	41
clobazam	14	cyproheptadine	40
clodronate	25	cyproterone acetate	23
clofazimine	31	cysteamine bitartrate	37
clofibrate	8	cytarabine	35
clomiphene	27	cytotoxic agents	35
clomipramine	16	dacarbazine	36
clonazepam	14, 19	dactinomycin	35
clonidine	4	dalteparin	9
clopamide	6	danaparoid	9
clorazepate	14	danazol	26
clotrimazole	28, 46	dantrolene	21
clozapine	15		

INDEX

dapsone	31	dicloxacillin	29
daunorubicin	35	didanosine	33
decongestants	38	dienoestrol	23
delavirdine	33	dienoslilerol	28
demeclocycline	29	diethylcarbamazine	34
dependency states, drugs used in	51	diethylpropion	37
dermatology, drugs used in, systemic	45	diflunisal	21
dermatology, drugs used in, topical	45	digoxin	8
desferrioxamine	51	digoxin immune fab	51
desflurane	48	dihydrocodeine	13, 38
desipramine	16	dihydroergotamine	9
desirudin	10	dihydrotachysterol	25
desmopressin	24	diltiazem	5
desonide	45	dimenhydrinate	20
detoxifying agents	51	dinoprostone	27
dexamethasone	24	diphenhydramine	20, 40
dexchlorpheniramine	40	diphenoxylate	2
dexfenfluramine	37	diphenylamine	40
dextroamphetamine	16	diphenylpyraline	40
dextromethorphan	38	diphtheria vaccine	41
dextromoramide	13	dipyridamole	9
dextropropoxyphene	13	disodium pamidronate	25
diagnostic agents	50	disopyramide	7
diazepam	14	disulfiram	51
diazoxide	4	diuretics, carbonic anhydrase inhibitor	6
diclofenac	21	diuretics, loop	6
dicyclomine hydrochloride	2	diuretics, potassium sparing	6
		diuretics, thiazide	6

dobutamine	8	epirubicin	35
docetaxel	35	eptacog alfa	10
docusate sodium	2	eprosartan	5
dolasetron	20	ergometrine	27
domperidone	20	ergotamine	9
donepezil	51	erythromycin	30
dopamine	8	erythropoietin	12
dornase alfa	39	esmolol	6
dorzolamide	44	estramustine	35
dothiepin	16	ethacrynic acid	6
doxazosin	4	ethambutol	31
doxepin	16	ethinyloestradiol	23
doxorubicin	35	ethosuximide	19
doxycycline	29, 32	etidocaine	48
doxylamine	40	etoposide	36
droperidol	15	etretinate	45
dydrogesterone	23	expectorants	38
econazole	28, 46	famciclovir	33
ecothiopate	44	famotidine	2
eformoterol	38	felodipine	5
emetine	38	fenfluramine	37
enalapril	5	fenoterol	8, 38
endocrine system	24	fentanyl	13
enflurane	48	fexofenadine	40
enoxacin	30	fibrinolytic agents	10
enoxaparin	9	filgrastim	12
entacapone	17	finasteride	12, 45
ephedrine	8, 38	flecainide	7

INDEX

fleroxacin	30	frusemide	6
flucloxacillin	29	fusidic acid	30
fluconazole	30	gabapentin	19
flucytosine	30	gadodiamide	50
fludarabine	35	galactose and palmitic acid	50
fludrocortisone (systemic)	24	gallamine	48
fludrocortisone (topical)	24	ganciclovir	33
flumazenil	51	gemcitabine	35
flumethasone	24	gemeprost	27
flunisolide	24	gemfibrozil	8
flunitrazepam	14	general anaesthetics	48
fluocinolone	24	gentamicin	29
fluocortolone (topical)	24	gestrinone	26
fluorouracil	35	glibenclamide	25
fluvoxamine	16	gliclazide	25
fluoxetine	16	glimepiride	25
fluoxymesterone	23	glipizide	25
flupenthixol	15	glyceryl trinitrate	7, 9
fluphenazine	14	glycopyrrolate	2, 51
flurazepam	14	glycosides, cardiotoxic	8
flurbiprofen	44	gonadotrophins	26
fluticasone	24, 38	goserelin	24, 35
fluvastatin	8	gout, agents used in	22
folic acid	12	granisetron	20
folinic acid	12	griseofulvin	30
foscarnet	33	guaiphenesin	38
fosinopril	5	guanethidine	4
fotemustine	35		

haemophilus influenzae type B vaccine	41	hyoscine hydrobromide	20
haemopoietic agents	12	hyoscine methobromide	51
haemostatic agents	10	hyoscine-N-butylbromide	2, 51
halcinonide	24	hyoscyamine	2, 51
haloperidol	15	hyperlipidaemia, agents used in	8
halothane	48	hyperuricaemia, agents used in	22
heparin	10	hypnotics	13, 14
hepatitis A vaccine	41	hypocalcaemia, agents used in	25
hepatitis B vaccine	41	hypoglycaemic agents	25
hexamine	27	hypolipidaemic agents	8
hormonal antineoplastic agents	35	ibuprofen	21
hormones, pituitary	26	idarubicin	35
hormones, thyroid	25	idoxuridine	44, 47
human coagulation factor IX	10	ifosfamide	35
human chorionic gonadotrophin	26	imipenem-cilastatin combination	31
human menopausal gonadotrophin	26	imipramine	16
hydralazine	4	imiquimod	47
hydrochlorothiazide	6	immunomodifiers	41
hydrocortisone (systemic and topical)	24	indapamide	6
hydromorphone	13	indinavir	33
hydroxychloroquine	21, 32	indomethacin	21
hydroxyprogesterone	23	influenza vaccine	41
hydroxyquinoline	46	inhalation agents	38
hydroxyurea	35	inhalational agents, bronchospasm relaxants	39
hydroxyzine	40	inhalational agents, preventative aerosols and inhalations	39
hyoscine	20, 51	interferon alpha-2a	41

INDEX

interferon alpha-2b	41	ketoprofen	21
interferon beta-1a	42	ketorolac	21
interferon beta-1b	42	kogenate	10
interferon gamma-1b	41	labetalol	6
iomeprol	50	lamivudine	33
ioversol	50	lamotrigine	19
ipecacuanha	38	lansoprazole	2
ipratropium bromide	38	lataneprost	44
irbesartan	5	laxatives	2
irinotecan	36	lenograstim	12
iron and haemopoietic agents	12	letrozole	35
iron preparations (oral and parenteral)	12	leuprorelin	35
isoconazole	28	levamisole	42
isoflurane	48	levobunolol	6, 44
isoniazid	31	levocabastine	40, 44
isoprenaline	8, 38	levodopa	17
isosorbide dinitrate	7, 9	lignocaine	7, 48
isosorbide mononitrate	7	lincomycin	30
isotretinoin	45	lindane	46
isotretinoin (topical)	46	liothyronine	25
isoxsuprine	9	lisinopril	5
isradipine	5	lithium salts	15
itraconazole	30	local anaesthetics	48
ivermectin	34	lodoxamide trometamol	44
kanamycin	29	lomustine	35
ketamine	48	loop diuretics	6
ketoconazole	30	loperamide	2
		loratadine	40

lorazepam	14	metaraminol	8
losartan	5	metformin	25
lypressin	24	methadone	13, 52
macrolide antibiotics	30	methdilazine	40
malathion (see maldison)	46	methenolone	23
maldison (malathion)	46	methocarbamol	21
mazindol	37	methohexitone	48
measles-mumps-rubella vaccine	40	methotrexate	35
measles-mumps vaccine	40	methoxsalen	46
measles vaccine	40	methoxyflurane	48
mebendazole	34	methsuximide	19
mebeverine	2	methychlothiazide	6
medroxyprogesterone (injection)	49	methylropa	4
medroxyprogesterone (oral)	23, 36	methylphenidate	16
mefenamic acid	21	methylphenobarbitone	18
mefloquine	32	methylprednisolone	24
mefruside	6	methylprednisolone aceponate	24
megestrol	23	methysergide	9
melphalan	35	metoclopramide	20
meningococcal vaccine	41	metolazone	6
mepivacaine	48	metoprolol	6
meprobamate	14	metronidazole	30
mercaptopurine	35	metryrapone	50
meropenem	30	mexiletine	7
mesalazine	3	mezlocillin	29
mesna	36	mianserin	16
mestranol	23	miconazole (topical)	28, 46
metabolic disorders, drugs used in	37	midazolam	14
		miglitol	25

INDEX

migraine drugs	9	naltrexone	52
milrinone	8	nandrolone	23
minocycline	29	naproxen	21
minoxidil	4	naratriptan	9
mirtazapine	16	nedocromil	38
misoprostol	2	nefazodone	16
mitomycin	35	nelfinavir	33
mitozantrone	35	neomycin	29
mivacurium	48	neostigmine	51
moclobemide	16	netilmicin	29
molgramostim	12	neuromuscular blocking agents	48
mometasone	24	nevirapine	33
monoamine oxidase inhibitors	16	nicardipine	5
montelukast	39	nicorandil	7
morphine	13	nicotine (transdermal)	52
mouth preparations	43	nicotine (in chewing gum)	52
mucolytic agents	38	nicotinic acid	8, 9, 52
mumps vaccine	40	nicotiny alcohol	9
mupirocin	30	nifedipine	5
muscle relaxants	21	nimodipine	5
mustine	35	nisoldipine	5
myasthenia gravis, drugs used in	51	nitrazepam	14
mycophenolate mofetil	42	nitrofurantoin	31
nabumetone	21	nitroprusside	4
nadroparin	9	nitrous oxide	48
nafarelin	24	nizatidine	2
nalidixic acid	30	nonoxynol 9	49
naloxone	51	non-cytotoxic supportive therapy	36

non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)	21	oxandrolone	23
norethisterone	23	oxazepam	14
norfloxacin	30	oxpentifylline	9, 11
norflurane propellant	38	oxprenolol	6
nortriptyline	16	oxybutynin	27
nystatin	28, 30	oxycodone	13
		oxymetholone	23
octoxinol	49	oxytocin	27
octreotide	26	paclitaxel	35
oestradiol	23	pamidronate disodium	25
oestriol	23	pancuronium	48
oestrogens	23	pantoprazole	2
oestrogens conjugated	23	papaveretum	13
oestrone	23	papaverine	9, 51
ofloxacin	30	paracetamol	13
olanzapine	15	paroxetine	16
olsalazine	3	penciclovir	47
omeprazole	2	penicillamine	21, 51
ondansetron	20	penicillins	29
ophthalmic drugs	44	pentamidine	31
opioid analgesics	13	pentazocine	13
opium alkaloids and derivatives	38	pentobarbitone	13
oral contraceptives (see contraceptives, oral)	23, 49	pentosan polysulfate sodium	27
orciprenaline	8, 38	pergolide	17
ornipressin	10	perhexilene	7
orphenadrine	21	pericyazine	14
ovulation inducers	26	perindopril	5
		permethrin	46

INDEX

perphenazine	14	pituitary hormones	24
pethidine	13	pituitary inhibitors	26
phenelzine	16	pizotifen	9
phenindione	10	pneumococcal vaccine	41
pheniramine	40	poliomyelitis vaccine (injection)	41
phenobarbitone	18	poliomyelitis vaccine (oral)	40
phenolphthalein	2	pravastatin	8
phenoperidine	13	praziquantel	34
phenothiazines	14, 20	prazosin	4
phenoxybenzamine	9	prednisolone	24
phenoxymethylpenicillin	29	prednisone	24
phensuximide	19	preventive aerosols and inhalations	38
phentermine	37	prilocaine	48
phentolamine	9	primaquine phosphate	32
phenylbutazone	21	primidone	18
phenylephrine	8, 38	probenecid	22
phenylpropanolamine	8, 38	probutol	8
phenytoin sodium	18	procainamide	7
pholcodine	38	procaine penicillin	29
physostigmine	21	procaine hydrochloride	48
pimozide	15	procarbazine	36
pindolol	6	prochlorperazine	20
pipecuronium	48	procyclidine	17
piperacillin	29	progestogens	23, 49
piperacillin with tazobactam	29	proguanil	32
piperazine oestrone sulfate	23	promazine	14
piperonyl butoxide	46	promethazine	20, 40
piroxicam	21	propantheline	2, 51
pituitary-adrenal response test	50		

propellant agents	38	ranitidine	2
propofol	48	recombinant follicle stimulating hormone (FSH)	27
propranolol	6	remifentanyl	13
propylthiouracil	25	respiratory agents, other	39
prostaglandin E2	27	reteplase	10
protamine	10	ribavirin	34
protriptyline	16	rifabutin	31
pseudoephedrine	8, 38	rifampicin	32
pyrantel embonate	34	rimiterol	8, 38
pyrazinamide	31	risperidone	15
pyrethrins	46	ritonavir	33
pyridostigmine	51	rituximab	42
pyrimethamine	33	rocuronium	48
pyrimethamine-dapsone combination	32	ropinirole	17
pyrimethamine-sulfadoxine combination	33	ropivacaine	48
quinagolide	26	roxithromycin	30
quinapril	5	rubella vaccine	41
quinethazone	6	salbutamol	8, 27, 38
quinidine	7	salcatonin	25
quinine	22, 33	salicylate sodium	21
quinolones	30	salmeterol	38
rabies vaccine	41	samarium [¹⁵³ Sm]	36
radiographic agents	50	saponins	38
ramipril	5	saquinavir	33
raloxifene	25	sedatives	13, 14
raltitrexed	35	selegiline	17
		senna	2

INDEX

sertraline	16	sulindac	21
sevoflurane	48	sulphonylureas	25
sildenafil citrate	9	sulthiame	19
simvastatin	8	sumatriptan	9
sodium aurothiomalate	21	suxamethonium	48
sodium cromoglycate	38		
sodium nitroprusside	4	tacrine	51
sodium salicylate	21	tacrolimus	42
sodium valproate	19	tamoxifen	36
somatropin	24	tazobactam	29
sotalol	6	teicoplanin	31
spectinomycin	30	temazepam	14
spermicides, vaginal	49	teniposide	36
spironolactone	6, 23	tenoxicam	21
selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs)	16	terazosin	4, 27
stavudine	33	terbinafine	30
steroids	23	terbutaline	8, 38
steroids, topical	24	terfenadine	40
stimulants	16	testosterone	23
streptokinase	10	tetanus vaccine	41
sucralfate	2	tetrabenazine	20
sulfadiazine	31	tetracosactrin	50
sulfadoxine	31	tetracyclic antidepressants	16
sulfamethizole	31	tetracyclines	29
sulfamethoxazole	31	theophylline derivatives	38
sulfasalazine	3	thiabendazole	34
sulfinpyrazone	22	thiazides	6
sulfonamides	31	thiethylperazine	20
		thioguanine	35

thiopentone	48	triamcinolone (inhaled)	24
thiopropazate	14	triamcinolone (systemic)	24
thioridazine	14	triamcinolone (topical)	24
thiotepa	35	triamterene	6
thiothixene	15	triazolam	14
thrombolytic agents	9	tricyclic antidepressants	16
thyroid hormones	25	trifluoperazine	14
thyrotrophin	24	trimeprazine	40
thyroxine	25	trimethoprim	31
tiagabine	19	trimethoprim-sulfonamide combinations	31
tiaprofenic acid	21	trimipramine	16
ticarcillin	29	triprolidine	40
ticlopidine	10	tropisetron	20
tiludronate disodium	25	tubocurarine	48
timolol	6, 44	typhoid vaccine (injection)	40
tinidazole	31	typhoid vaccine (oral)	40
tirilazad	11	urinary antiseptics	27
tirofiban hydrochloride	7	urofollitrophin	26
tobramycin	29	urokinase	10
tolazamide	25	uterus, agents acting on	27
tolbutamide	25	vaccines	40, 41
topiramate	19	vaginal medication, topical	28
topotecan	35	valaciclovir	33
toremifene	36	valproate sodium (valproic acid)	19
tramadol	13	valsartan	5
trandolapril	5	vancomycin	30
tranexamic acid	10		
tranylcypromine	16		
tretinoin	36, 46		

INDEX

vasodilators	9	warfarin	10
vasopressin	24	weight reducing agents	37
vecuronium	48	yellow fever vaccine	40
venlafaxine	16		
verapamil	5	zalcitabine	34
vigabatrin	19	zafirlukast	39
vinblastine	35	zidovudine	33
vinca alkaloids	35	zolmitriptan	9
vincristine	35	zolpidem tartrate	14
vindesine	35	zopiclone	14
vinorelbine tartrate	35	zuclopenthixol	15
vitamin A	52		

Therapeutic goods exempted from pregnancy classification

The following classes of therapeutic goods have not been generally included in this categorisation. There are, however, some therapeutic goods within these classes which have been assigned a pregnancy classification at registration and have been listed in the text.

- Antiflatulents (silicones)
- Antigen preparations for desensitisation
- Antihæmorrhagics: antifibrinolytics, fibrinogen, blood coagulation factors
- Certain anti-poisoning agents: potassium iodide
- Topical antirheumatics
- Antivenoms & antitoxins
- Charcoal preparations
- Contact lens preparations
- Diagnostic agents (urinalysis agents, ocular staining agents etc.)
- Digestives, including enzymes
- Ear preparations for topical use
- Enzymes (haematological), including fibrinolytics and hyaluronidase
- Topical preparations for hæmorrhoids, except those containing corticosteroids
- Herbal medicines

APPENDIX A

- Hormones that are indicated only for termination of pregnancy, postmenopausal substitution therapy, male hypogonadism, amenorrhoea, cystic glandular hyperplasia, or prostatic cancer
- Infant formulas
- Insulins and glucagon
- Keratolytics, cleansers, bath additives
- Certain laxatives: lactulose, bulk producers and enemas
- All medical devices (including prostheses, surgical implants, ostomy aids, surgical dressings, contraceptive devices, etc.)
- Mineral supplements
- Mouth preparations excluding those containing benzydamine
- Topical nasal decongestants, sympathomimetics and combinations excluding steroids
- Nutritional supplements
- Ocular irrigants
- Topical organoheparinoids
- Parenteral nutrition preparations
- Plasma substitutes and intravenous solutions, including solutions for intravenous feeding
- Scabicides, except when containing DDT, lindane or maldison (malathion)
- Sera and gammaglobulins
- Urinary sediment solvents
- Varicose vein therapies
- Vitamins (other than vitamin A and nicotinic acid)
- Zinc bandages

Obstetric Drug Information Services

The following services are available to health professionals.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

A.C.T. Drug Information Service

Woden Valley Hospital

Garran ACT 2605

Phone: (02) 6244 3333

Fax: (02) 6244 3334

NEW SOUTH WALES

Pregnancy and Neonatal Drug Advisory Service

Poisons Information Centre

The New Children's Hospital

Hawksbury Road

Westmead NSW 2148

Phone: (02) 9845 3111
131126

Fax: (02) 9845 3597

VICTORIA

Royal Women's Hospital

Obstetric Drug Information Centre

132 Grattan Street

Carlton VIC 3053

Phone: (03) 9344 2277

Fax: (03) 9349 2756

APPENDIX B

Monash Medical Centre
Obstetric Drug Information
246 Clayton Road
Clayton VIC 3168
Phone: (03) 9594 2361
Fax: (03) 9594 2595

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Drugs in Pregnancy and Lactation Information Service
Women's and Children's Hospital
72 King William Road
North Adelaide SA 5006
Phone: (08) 8204 7555
Fax: (08) 8204 6049

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Obstetric Drug Information Service
King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women
374 Bagot Road
Subiaco WA 6008
Phone: (08) 9340 2723
Fax: (08) 9340 2713

QUEENSLAND

Royal Women's Hospital
Obstetric Drug Information Service
Brisbane QLD
Phone: (07) 3253 7300
Fax: (07) 3253 3544

Queensland Drug Information Centre

Royal Brisbane Hospital

E Floor, Block 7

Herston Road

Herston QLD 4029

Phone: (07) 3253 7098

(07) 3253 7599

Fax: (07) 3253 1393

TASMANIA

Drug Information Centre

Pharmacy Department

Royal Hobart Hospital

GPO Box 1061L

Hobart TAS 7001

Phone: (03) 6238 8737

Fax: (03) 6222 8029 or (03) 6231 2905

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Northern Territory Drug Information Centre

Royal Darwin Hospital

PO Box 41 326

Casuarina NT 0811

Phone: (08) 8922 8424

Fax: (08) 8922 8499