

# DID YOU KNOW...

## that taking acetaminophen during pregnancy may raise a child's ADHD risk?

Researchers found that pregnant women who frequently took acetaminophen, sold under the brand name Tylenol, were more likely to have children later diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and similar issues.

They say it doesn't mean that pregnant women must never, ever take the drug, but they said women may want to avoid using it frequently until more studies have been done.

"We aren't saying if you take one Tylenol once it will give your child hyperactivity," said Dr. Beate Ritz, an epidemiologist at the University of California Los Angeles who worked on the study. "You should just avoid chronic or long-term use."

Infections such as influenza in pregnancy are known to affect the brain development of babies — they're linked to autism, for instance. It's one of the many reasons pregnant women are urged to get flu shots.

So the researchers in this study were careful to ask women if they were taking the acetaminophen pills to reduce a fever to treat flu symptoms. Even when taking this into account, women who took acetaminophen were more likely to have children later diagnosed with ADHD.



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