

Special Issue

Prenatal Substance Exposure: Historical Perspective, Current Research and Future Challenges

Message from the Guest Editors

Initially, cases of morphine withdrawal in newborns led to a diagnosis of “congenital morphinism,” marked by high mortality rates. As substance use has diversified, recent research, driven by the opioid crisis, focuses on neonatal abstinence syndrome/neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome. There remains no consensus on optimal management practices. Variables such as co-occurring maternal health issues, social determinants, and poly-substance exposure—including alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs such as cocaine, amphetamines, benzodiazepine, cannabinoids, etc.—further complicate withdrawal manifestations and outcomes. This research collection broadens examination of the impact of both illicit and prescribed substances. Key controversies and research gaps will be highlighted, emphasizing the need for standardization in management and treatment approaches. This synthesis aims to guide practices that improve both short- and long-term outcomes for affected infants. In addition, translational and scientific approaches to determining the impacts of prenatal substance exposure on neurocircuitry development and outcomes are supported.

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You are invited to contribute a research article or comprehensive review for consideration and publication in *Children* (ISSN 2227-9067). *Children* is an open access journal—research articles, reviews, and other content are published online immediately after acceptance. The scientific community and the general public have unlimited free access to the content as soon as it is published. The journal focuses on sharing clinical, epidemiological, and translational science relevant to children's health. We would be pleased to welcome you as one of our authors.

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